

THEINDEPENDENT

IN THIS SECTION It's Lee Dixon! Wilko picks his England SPORT, PAGE 26

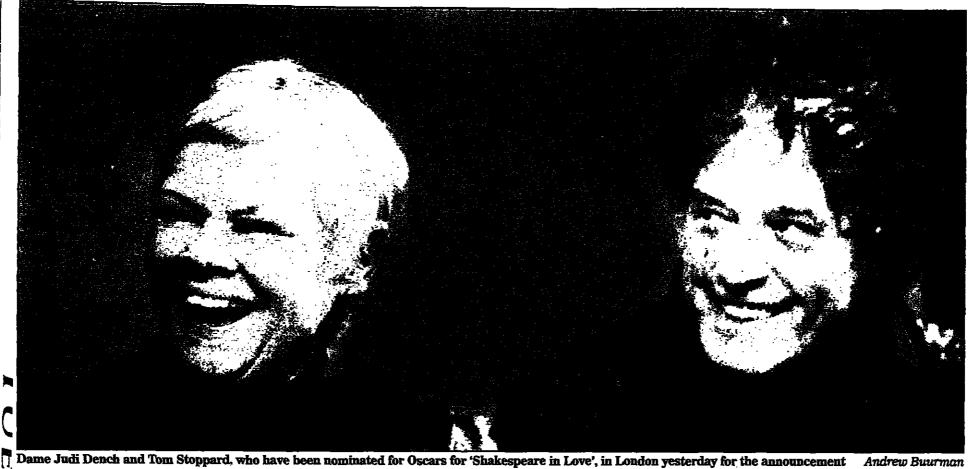


The thrills and frills of Oxfam chic FASHION, PAGE 8

WEDNESDAY REVIEW

SAVE UP TO £330 **ON A WEEKEND**





Ministers to take harsh line on single mothers

SINGLE MOTHERS and the dis- By ANDREW GRICE abled will lose all their social security benefits if they fail to turn up for regular interviews aimed at getting them back to work, the Government will announce today.

Writing in The Independent, Alistair Darling, the Secretary of State for Social Security, reveals: "The new regime will be far tougher than people thought ... Our new contract will require people to attend an interview as a condition of re-

ceiving benefit and to consider the options available to them." His Welfare Reform Bill, to be published today, will give Mr □ Darling wide-ranging powers to tend interviews at what he re-

gards as appropriate intervals. Previously, ministers have said only that claimants will be "asked" to attend one interview. But Mr Darling is convinced that tougher sanctions are needed to encourage the one million lone parents on income support and 2.8 million people on disability benefits back into work.

The 1.3 million unemployed can already lose their Jobseeker's Allowance for between two to four weeks if they turn down a reasonable offer of work. The new "single gateway" system, due to take effect force all benefit claimants to at- in April next year, will be even tougher. No claimant would be

allowed to stay on benefit uness they attended a back-towork interview at least every five years. There would be compulsory interviews at other "milestones" - for example. when the child of a single mother reached infant or secondary

The unexpectedly tough measures in today's Bill will fuel a Labour backbench rebellion against what critics will see as a further step towards a United States-style "workfare" system. Whips believe that 50 Labour MPs may rebel against the Bill during its passage through Parliament. "This will give the left the issue they have desperately been seeking," one govern-

launched a pre-embuve strike against his left wing critics last night, accusing them of adopting a "patronising attitude" which consigned claimants to a life on benefit.

He told The Independent that previous "crusades which ended in heroic failure" were of no help to those on benefit. "We are a different government; we' want a sea change in the culture of the system," he said.

"At the moment, you can sign on, get your benefit and not trouble anyone until you get your pension. But this approach is storing up social and economic problems. People on benefits have a right to expect the Government to help them,

However, Mr Darling but they also have a responsi- mothers have found work since ty to belp themselves will be no excuses."

However, Mr Darling insisted that lone parents and the disabled would not lose their benefits if they refused a job. The penalties would apply only to

those who declined an interview. The New Deal scheme for lone parents has convinced ministers that further incentives are needed to persuade single mothers to attend interviews with personal advisers. At present, many do not attend the voluntary sessions, but many of those who do turn up are per-

suaded to enter the jobs market. The Tories have branded

the New Deal a "total failure". saying that only 1,145 single last Sentember, at an aver cost of £14,800 per job.

Ministers are bracing themselves for strong criticism from Frank Field, who rebelled against the Government on Monday for the first time since resigning as minister for welfare reform last summer. Mr Field will argue that the proposed shake-up of disability payments

means-tested benefits. The Welfare Reform Bill will also bring in "stakeholder pensions" for workers not in company schemes; pension-sharing for divorced couples; and reform of widows' benefits.

will throw more people on to

Alistair Darling, Review, page 4

Shakespeare in Love makes Oscars history. Is it a sham?

BY DAVID LISTER Arts News Editor

THE BOX-OFFICE hit Shakespeare in Love yesterday guaranteed its place in film history when it garnered 13 Oscar nominations, the highest number for a domestic movie.

With the third-highest number of nominations in the Academy Awards' 71-year history, it overshadows The English Patient, which two years ago received 12 nominations, and is only one short of the record held jointly by All About Eve from 1950 and last year's blockbuster, Titonic.

With Elizabeth bagging a further seven nominations, Britain's film industry is hoping for one of its most successful years at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

But the hoped-for triumph highlights once again the vexed question of what, exactly, is a British film?

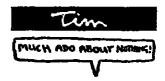
All of Shakespeare In Love's \$25m (£16m) budget came from an American company, Miramax, the former independent

company now owned by Disney. Another "British" hit, Little Voice, with Brenda Blethyn nominated for best supporting actress, was also financed by Miramax.

So in terms of money, both tilms could be classed as American. For the Department of Culture this is an issue best avoided. "We would rather not talk about what is, or what is not, a British film," said a

spokesman yesterday. However, the department's actions speak more patriotically than its words. It issues a quaintly titled "Certificate of British Nature Of A Film" to films that the Government considers British under the Films

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Shakespeare in Love has a certificate, as do other British Oscar nominees, such as Hilary and Jackie.

David Partitt, the British producer of Shakespeare In Love, said: "We are most definitely a British film. To get the certificate we had to meet certain criteria as regards use of labour. In fact, the entire crew was British, from the carpenter to the director, and so were all of the cast, bar three - Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Afleck and Geoffrey Rush. All of the locations were in the UK, and of the \$25m, \$20m was spent in the UK."

Mr Parfitt said many "British" films were financed from the US. Of his own films, The Wings of the Dove (1997) was 100 per cent financed by Miramax, and The Madness of King George and Much Ado About Nothing had the majori ty of their financing from the US.

"It's not where the profits go," he said, "it's the labour and talent you use, and the locations. Concentrating on the finance can be very misleading. When people say a film is British and financed in the UK, you will still get sales agents madly selling off the rights to foreign distributors." The nominees, page 7

Leading article, Review, page 3

Two are killed in Alps avalanche

By JOHN LICHFIELD

WO PEOPLE, including a small girl, were killed when avalanches buried 11 chalets in villages near Chamonix in the French Alps yesterday. Five people were missing

and 20 people were pulled out alive, shocked or slightly injured after the two enormous snow slides engulfed part of the villages of Le Tour and Montrocle-Planet, both popular resorts. Police said they feared that others might be trapped inside chalets or under snow. Witnesses said that they had seen several people walking in the open near the chalets just before the avalanches struck.

The victims were described as an adult male and a girl about four or five years old. Their names were not immeviately released.

More than 200 rescue work-



sis headquarters was set up nearby. "We think there could be others inside the chalets or near the chalets who could be buried," said Michel Berg, secretary-general of the Haute Savoie police.

ready to work throughout the winter holidays.

ers assembled last night, some night and powerful lights were skiing to the scene after roads being helicoptered to the were cut off by snowfalls. A cri- scene. Local radio reported that the villages were buried under six feet of snow, with only the roofs of the chalets

Tens of thousands of people are expected in the area from this weekend with the begin-The rescue teams were ning of the staggered school

Mandarin slated in Sandline affair

TONY BLAIR and Robin Cook BY FRAN ABRAMS went on the offensive last night against a Labour-dominated Commons committee as officials faced criticism over the arms-to-Sierra Leone affair.

In a highly critical report, the Foreign Affairs Committee said the Foreign Secretary's most senior official, Sir John Kerr, had "failed in his duty to ministers" and should be held responsible for the debacle.

If Cook, while cleared of knowing about illegal shipments, was accused of dealing in "half truths" over the scope of a weapons embargo. The investigation was launched after British mercenaries shipped arms in breach of a United Nations ban, with the apparent knowledge of some officials. The committee said Sir John

kni w about shipments, but failed to inform Mr Cook. Even when Customs raided his department, he said nothing.

Westminster Correspondent

The Government sought to rubbish the report. In a BBC interview, the Prime Minister said the committee's inquiry had uncovered nothing new. "The criticism made of the officials is disproportionate and unfair. They were doing a very, very difficult job in very difficult

circumstances," said Mr Blair. Mr Cook said an earlier inquiry had answered all the necessary questions. "It is wrong that the same officials should be put on trial for a second time,"

Conservative members of the committee refused to endorse its report, saying it had been too soft on Mr Cook and too hard on Britain's High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, Peter Penfold.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, said Mr

Blair should sack Mr Cook and his junior minister, Tony Lloyd

"It is hardly possible to conceive of a more serious indictment of ministers. This is a story of ministers deliberately misleading parliament, the public and the Foreign Office's own staff." he said. The committee's Liberal De-

mocrat member, David Heath, accused Mr Howard of "playing political games" by targeting Mr Cook instead of Sir John. "The committee has produced the hardest-hitting crit-

icisms of a permanent secretary and a department ever," he said. The report called for new legislation next year to control the activities of arms brokers,

and for a Green Paper on mercenaries within 18 months. Catalogue of criticisms.

Anne McElvoy, Review

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INSIDE THE REVIEW INSIDE THIS SECTION Rough justice **BA losses** Clinton vote

War crimes trial Half a century after the Holocaust, Britain's first war crimes trial began Home P3

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cess to its subscribers

Home P4

Foreign P12 Horn of África at war War looms between Ethiopia and Eritrea Foreign P13

The Senate voted to

tions confidential

keep its final delibera-

British Airways yesterday reported its first loss | Northern Ireland in four years Business P16

plans of sporting empire

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Faicons for sale Newcastle sale ends

Who is behind the nunishment beatings? Review Front Anne McElvoy Robin Cook's ethical

foreign policy on trial

Alistair Darling No one has the right to benefits without responsibilities Comment P4

No sects please Tales of Tantric sex with a Tibetan monk



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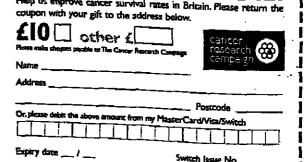
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IN STHE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

My bosses want to stay in touch 24 hours a day. I value my privacy: shall I throw my pager away?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE'S DILEMMAS

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORMI ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH



ROBIN COOK

Foreign Secretary The Foreign Affairs Committee's report says Mr Cook was not told British mercenaries were planning to ship arms to Sierra Leone. However, he did not tell the whole truth about a UN embargo: "Half-truths are a dangerous commodity in which to trade." Mr Cook is criticised for refusing to let the committee interview the head of MI6. Sir David Spedding. | adequate support.



PETER PENFOLD

High Commissioner to Sierra Leone The report says: "We conclude that Mr Penfold's relations with Sandline were open to criticism" It also expresses "surprise at Mr Penfold's ignorance and his lack of due diligence in ascertaining the true legal position on arms supplies", but criticises the Foreign Office for not providing him with



TIM SPICER

Sandline representative The report says: "It was an extraordinary omission by Mr Spicer and his legal advisers not to ascertain the position in law about the sale of arms to Sierra Leone." Sandline was "in essence a company of mercenaries... Our attempts to uncover the structure, ownership and business connections of Sandline were met with extraordinarily evasive answers."



SIR JOHN KERR

Permanent Secretary, The Foreign Office The report says: "The Permanent Secretary failed in his duty to ministers. The Foreign Secretary was first informed about Sandline... three weeks after [Sir John] had learned of customs' raid on his own department. The Permanent Secretary must be held responsible for this unacceptable situation. It represents a serious failure of



SIR THOMAS LEGG

Author of official report on the affair The Foreign Affairs Committee's report says: "Our oral evidence sessions have illuminated a great deal which is not clear from simply reading the Legg report. On occasions we have differed from the conclusions which Legg drew. It is important not to be mesmerised by the Legg report, theirs is not necessarily the last

'Catalogue of errors' over Sierra Leone

THE FOREIGN Affairs Com- BY FRAN ABRAMS mittee's report on Sierra Leone reveals a catalogue of halftruths, obfuscation, missing documents and ill-kept records.

As a key member of the committee put it, they peered under the bonnet of the Foreign Office's much vaunted "Rolls Royce" operation and found the mechanics of an old banger.

Ironically, there is no major agrees that Britain was right to back the elected government of junta. It may have been politi-Ahmed Kabbah, exiled after a cally convenient to misrepcoup in May 1997. Atrocities resent the embargo, said committed by the military junta which overthrew him sparked revulsion in even the most hardened in Westminster.

too clearly, the effort to restore enmeshed in their departdemocracy began to go politi- ment's sleight of hand.

Westminster Correspondent

cally awry at an early stage. Britain wanted UN sanctions against the junta alone rather than on Kabbah, but was told a blanket ban would be more

Even though ministers understood that blanket ban, Foreign Office briefings to yesterday's report , but "halftruths are a dangerous com-

modity in which to trade". From then, officials seemed But as the report reveals all doomed to become ever more

By the time the UN embargo was imposed in mid-1997, British "military consultants" from Sandline International were already negotiating to ship arms to President Kabbah. They were apparently recommended by Peter Penfold;

Britain's High Commissioner to

Mr Penfold, however, had not seen the arms embargo. stake in the affair. Everyone matic staff and even President later statements that Britain Kabbah said it only covered the should have "no truck with mercenaries". So in December 1997 he attended a cordial lunch in London with the firm's main operative, Tim Spicer, and his wealthy "patron" Tony

Buckingham. There Mr Penfold was shown a copy of Sandline's Grant, to demand a written plans, which made clear that a sizeable arms shipment was

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SUN & MOON

WEATHERLINE

envisaged. Mr Penfold did not tell the Foreign Office straight away but posted a letter from Oxfordshire a week later. According to his colleagues, the letter never arrived.

Another month went by before Mr Penfold passed a copy of Sandline's plans to the Foreign Office. No-one reacted, according to the Permanent Secretary Sir John Kerr, begested it should be destroyed. what it meant".

Mr Spicer had also visited the Foreign Office in person to dline's help and in March a many of them. But one of its of which, mysteriously, no proper minutes were kept. However, Mr Penfold's rev-

elation sparked enough concern for a senior official, Ann memo which was produced on 2 February last year.

A further 12 weeks were to elapse before the Foreign Secretary was told. During that time a key intelligence report revealed details of Sandline's

One official later could not report seeing it while another said he did not believe its content. One staff member, who has not been identified, twice sug-

Kabbah was restored with San- and yesterday's report points to explain his mission - a meeting national newspaper reported most telling findings may point contacts between Mr Penfold, to the future. Two years ago the Mr Spicer and President Kabbah. But still the politicians remained ignorant, and two junior ministers went to Parliament with briefings which were during the course of the latest "grossly deficient," according to the committee.

Sir John Kerr, Mr Cook's most senior official, learned of the affair late last March and in early April his department was raided by Customs and Excise investigators, but still ministers were not told.

Finally, at the end of April, Mr Cook's special adviser saw a letter from Sandline's solicitors and rushed to tell the Foreign Secretary.

on. In mid-February President to be learned from this affair, same committee called for tighter controls after a British firm shipped arms to Rwanda. Its members only discovered inquiry that the recommendations were never implemented.

THE KEY FINDINGS

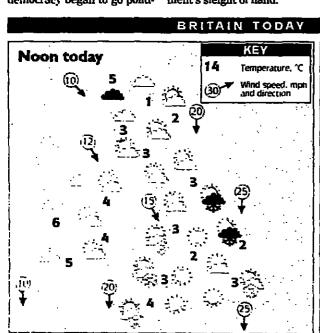
■ Arms embargoes should be approved by MPs in future to prevent Parliament being misled about their scope, as it was in this case.

A Green Paper on the control of mercenaries should be published within 18 months, and legislation on arms brokers should be introduced in the next parliamentary Britain should seek to strengthen the United Nations'

convention against mercenanes, and if it rails to do so i should lead moves in Europe to control them and also to regulate arms broking.

Ministers should respect committees' demands for information and should take "a more mature attitude" to letting them see Intelligence documents and officials. Sir John Kerr, the Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, failed in his duty to ministers and new procedures should be implemented to prevent a

An "appalling failure" in the briefing of ministers should never be repeated.



FORECAST

General situation: After another very cold and fresty start, much of England and Males, will have clearly of samenne. However, a few wantry showers will move out to have clearly of samenne. However, a few wantry showers will move the outside of the same country and some heavy show the wers are likely in coastal parts of a return at the same country and heavy of the part of the same country shows showers will clear to leave decent surmy spells about the first term of the same country spells of the same country same discipling and fresty, but it will clear to leave the afternoon with some disciple in the far north-west.

don, SE & NE England, E Midlands, E Anglia, E England: Some decent one this error and eath show showers rowards the east coast. A fresh north the east and Alan temp 2-40 (36-39F)

Cent S England, W Midlands, E Wales, Cent N & NW England, Lake Dist, hile of Man: Alanky dr. and summy but rather cold. A fresh north-west wind. Min. 1889, 2440, 366-3691.

Channel is, SW England, N & W Wales: Wintry showers near to coasts, but cleaned call be sum. A fresh neith-westerly wind. Max temp 4-60 (39-43F) N treland: Another cold and frosty start. Some sunshine this morning but cloud and paid this alternoon. A moderate north-west wind. Max temp 4-60 (59-43F). NW Scotland, Wisles: Sunny spells at lirst then doubling over this afternoon. A mediate north-west wind. Nov. remp 3-50 (37-41F).

SW & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgown Mainly dry with sunny spells but soil torber co.d. A fresh north-west wind at first. Max temp 2-SC (36-4/F). NE Scotland, Aberdeen, N Islast A lew sunny spells mused with the odd snow this court find, the slaswers easing off this afternoon, A fresh north-west wand. May range (144): (56-397)

OUTLOOK

Main of the truntry will stay cold for a while longer. However, it will become after an above the cloud sail produce some run across Northern Ireland and western Scottern Mides ar will arrive in these areas first, gradually spreading south on Least bringing run over the weekend.

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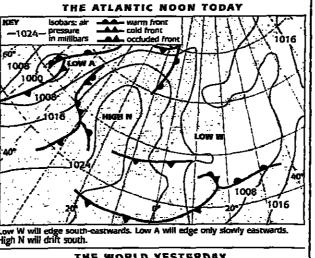
YESTERDAY LIGHTING UP EXTREMES Rt: Penzance 7C (4SF) 5.20pm to 7.55am 5.10pm to 7.32am 5.16pm to 7.32am 5.09pm to 7.52am 5.09pm to 7.23am 5.09pm to 7.37am 5.01pm, to 7.38am Coldest (day): L Glascamoch OC (30F) Wettest: Lerwick 0.63 ins Stranlest: Bristol 9.0 hrs For 24hrs to 6pm Tuesday HIGH TIDES

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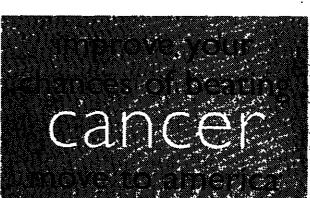
COME RAIN For the latest forecasts dial **9891 5009** 15PGwed by the two diges for your area Source, The Met. Office Calls charged at 50p per man und VATI OR SHINE... HURRICANE MITCH, which hit central America in October, caused more than \$850 million (£534 million) in damage to crops and livestock in Honduras, according to a United Nations report.

In Honduras, the widespread destruction of banana, coffee and sugar cane crops contributed to a \$480 million (£302million) loss in exports. said the UN. Damage to roads, rail and livestock made up the





THE WORLD YESTERDAY



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PLUS LAW AND

Enthusiastic Nazi who took pleasure in slaughter of Jews'

By Andrew Buncombe

THE DATES relate to a different age, the crime to another generation. But more than half a century on, the horrors of the Jewish Holocaust reverberated once again yesterday as Britain's first Nazi war crimes trial began at the Old Bailey.

The accusations against Anthony Sawoniuk, a limping, white-haired pensioner from south London, are as simple as they are shocking.

It is alleged that between 19 September and 31 December 1942, he murdered 20 Jews, assisting the Nazis in their socalled Final Solution. It is alleged that he did so not only willingly, but enthusiastically, while serving as a police officer in Nazi-occupied Belarus. Moreover, it is said that his victims were people with whom he had lived side-by-side and even worked for during the first 20

The crimes are said to have taken place in Domachevo, a town in south-west Belarus, 25 miles south of Brest. In the summer of 1941, on its push to Moscow, the German army stormed through Belarus, overrunning Domachevo in less

Within days the Germans were looking for volunteers to serve in a locally recruited police force, or Schutzmannschaft, to keep order, and
which in the days to come,
yould assist in the systematic
extermination of the Jewish population.

Yesterday at the Old Bailey, John Nutting QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Sawoniuk, 77, was one of the first to volunteer for this force. He was to be promoted to Commandant of the force and would serve for three years before fleeing with the Nazis when the Red Army counter-attacked in 1944.

Mr Nutting said that while British law required that only mentioned in each of the four counts Mr Sawoniuk faces, the prosecution alleges that he in fact murdered 20 people.

"On each occasion, say the Crown, this defendant executed Jewish men and women whose only offence was to be Jewish," he said. "The evidence indicates that the defendant was not only prepared to do the Nazi bidding but carried out their genocidal policy



Anthony Sawoniuk arriving at the Old Bailey yesterday Alex Slawther/Photonews

crimes are said to have been carried out following the Nazis decision, in the summer of 1942, to exterminate the Jewish population within the territories it held. This was Hermann Goring's "Final Solution of the Jewish Question".

In Domachevo, a spa town of mixed ethnicity, this policy came to a rapid and murderous conclusion on 19 and 20 Sep-Yom Kippur. On those two days the Nazis murdered 2,900 Jews from Domachevo, a town with a population of 5,000.

Mr Nutting said that witnesses recall the Jewish population being forced from their ghetto and marched to some sandhills on the outskirts of the town. The route would become known as the Road of Death, the sandhills would become

stained with blood.

Mr Sawoniuk's alleged in batches by machine-gun fire," said Mr Nutting, "The shooting lasted for a long time. Women and children were murdered along with male Jews." He said locals were made to

witness the event. One, Galina Puchkina, was led towards the sandhills. "The witness remembers cries and screaming. The Jews were ordered to undress and throw their clothes on to a pile," he said, "They Germans, towards the pits. After they had disappeared in the direction of the pits [Mrs Puchkina] heard sounds of shooting - machine-gun fire

and then single shots." While the prosecution admitted there is nothing to link Mr Sawoniuk with the massacre, it is alleged he was in-

volved immediately after. Many of those Jews who escaped were tracked down by

on the day of the massacre," said Mr Nutting. "The inference that the Jews were murdered by the defendant is an irresistible one, either rifle butts, by the policemen and to shoot, or because he was seen taking Jews to a place where they were habitually shot and returning without

German Einstatzgruppen, or

mobile death squads, but others

were found by the local police.

rounding up and murdering

Jews who had fled to the forest

... or had hidden in the ghetto

"It is alleged that the defendant played a prominent part in

about the fate of his victim." In one allegation Mr Sawoniuk is said to have shot dead 15 Jewish women in a forest clearing, A witness, Fedor Zan, hid in bushes after hearing women screaming and saw Mr Sawoniuk standing next to the group beside an open grave,

said Mr Nutting.

them, or because he boasted

"He ordered the women to remove their clothes and then shot them with [a sub-machinegun]. As they died they col-

lapsed into the grave." In another allegation Mr Sawoniuk is said to have murdered two men and a women in the sandhills. Another witness, Alexander Baglay, saw Mr Sawoniuk order the three to undress and led them to a pre-dug grave, said Mr Nutting, "He then took out his pistol and shot each one in the head from behind - first the two men, then the girl. As he fired he pushed each of them forward into the

He is also said to have murdered a 50-year-old Jew known only as Schlemko. A third witness, Ivan Stepaniuk, saw Mr Sawoniuk hitting him with a spade before leading him off to some trees. After hearing a sin-



gle gunshot, Mr Stepaniuk saw the defendant return, armed but without the prisoner, said Mr Nutting.

The prosecution said witnesses had also seen Mr Sawoniuk carrying out other attacks. On one occasion he was among a group of police who set fire to the beard of an elderly Jew before stabbing him.

Mr Sawoniuk, a retired railway worker, has denied all the allegations. Yesterday he sat motionless as the allegations were outlined. His only reaction came when the court was told how his first wife, a midwife called Anna Maslova, died shortly after their marriage when she was caught in crossfire. At this point Mr Sawoniuk took a handkerchief from his pocket and wiped his eyes.

When questioned by police in 1994 under the 1991 War Crimes Act. Mr Sawoniuk initially denied he was a member of the police force. He had since admitted he was, but denied all the allegations he faced, said Mr Nutting.

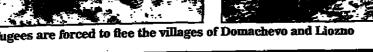
Mr Nutting raised the question of whether the witnesses had got the wrong man. "After such a long time maybe the witnesses' memories are at fault," he said, "or do they describe events which are literally unforgettable ... which once witnessed would remain fixed in a man's memory for his life?



A memorial near Domachevo, Belarus, to the victims of the Nazi massacre

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'Scariest film in history' is finally released on video

THE EXORCIST, widely considered the most disturbing film of all time, was finally passed for video release yesterday more than a quarter of a century after its first outing.

In his first significant deci-tion since taking over as chief censor last month, Robin Duval, director of the British Board of Film Classification, gave an uncut version of the 1973 film an 18 rating. Its original cinema release was trailed by a wave of hysteria as people fainted, votnited or ran to priests claiming demonic possession. Newspaper headlines dubbed it "sickening", several churches tried to ban it and protesters held vigils outside cinemas.

But the reaction to its 25th anniversary release last autumn was muted, a fact which Mr Duval said informed deliberations about sanctioning its video release. "Public sensibility has changed," he said.

In fact, The Exorcist was available for home viewing for four years until the Video Recordings Act 1984 placed video under the BBFC's aegis. Since then, its failure to earn a classification - partly based on the belief that children would see it despite an 18 rating - has become a cause célèbre of British film censorship. Mr Duval said that there while he hoped its reputation was sufficient for parents to police their children's viewing.

William Friedkin's film broke box-office records, won 10 Oscar nominations and even earned approval from sections of the Roman Catholic church, but its reputation as a terrifying tour de force has often ground-breaking drama.

Based on a novel by William the characters." Peter Blatty, the film deals with the demonic possession of a 12- raged by the decision. Dr Adriyear-old girl. Mark Kermode, a an Rogers, former chairman of BBFC's decision was overdue. gerous film."

was no hard evidence that the "It's the greatest film of all time video had harmed viewers, because it gives you what you give it. It's horror, it has a happy ending, it has a negative ending, it's an allegory for post-Watergate disillusionment, for

the collapse of the family. "In the US, where the video's been out for years, younger viewers do not get much out of it because it's a complicated film and nothing much happens overshadowed its virtues as for the first hour. For it to be scary, you have to get into it and

Moral campaigners were outcritic who has seen the film the Conservative Family Instimore than 200 times, said the tute, said: "It's a horrible, dan-



(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) Surname

ge step

BT offers free internet service to all households

THE PROSPECT of free Internet By NIGEL COPE access being extended to virtu- Associate City Editor ally every household drew

It is called ClickFree and will be available just by picking up the phone and ordering a free compact disc or by downloading the software via a modem from BT's website.

groundbreaking move by scription service has 900,000

closer yesterday when BT Dixons, whose Freeserve prodlaunched a free Internet uct has taken the Internet access market by storm since its launch in September.

Freeserve has grown rapidly to become the UK's largest Internet access provider with a million members, overtaking the long-established America The BT service follows a OnLine, whose monthly sub-

members in the UK. Dixons' success has sparked a series of imitators, such as Tesco and even Arsenal Football Club.

However, the Tesco service is just for members of its Club-Card loyalty scheme, and the Dixons service is restricted to

customers who visit its stores. BT's ClickFree will be just a phone call away from its millions of domestic customers.

It can be downloaded on to a PC or Apple Macintosh, with to shop online due to a link-up

MAIN PROVIDERS IN THE UK

Provider	Service	Subscribers
Dixons	Freeserve	1 million
America OnLine	AOL/Compuserve	900,000
Demon Internet	Demon	230,000
BT Internet	BT Click+	166,000
Microsoft	MSN	140,000

the only charge being a 50p-aminute helpline

which provides low-cost goods Subscribers will also be able via the Internet. We are simply responding to

between BT and Value Direct,

the request from customers for other services through their the telecoms watchdog. a cheaper service to connect to the Internet," BT's Internet director John Swingewood said.

Free Internet access has become the new battleground in electronic commerce as companies grapple with ways of making money through the medium. Internet providers such as Dixons, and now BT, earn revenue by charging 50p a minute for helpline calls as well as selling advertising and

website. One of BT's advantages is that it will attract users of Apple Macintosh computers. who are not able to access the Dixons or Tesco services. Internet experts say BT will also be able to trade on the huge power of its brand while back-

ing ClickFree with a massive advertising budget. The market for free Internet access provision is currently being investigated by Oftel.

BT has complained that the services block its lines and cause congestion, while it receives only a fraction of the call revenue. If Oftel modifies the payment structure, forcing companies like Dixons to pay a higher proportion of the phone charge to BT, they may have to nenin

charge for their services. Tesco: www.tesco.net Freeserve: www.freeserve.net Clickfree: www.btchickfree.com

Schooling a lottery, says chief inspector

STANDARDS IN England's schools have risen dramatically in the last five years, Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said yesterday.

Five years ago, teaching in 20-30 per cent of lessons was judged unsatisfactory or poor. Now that figure is down to 8 per cent. However, schooling remains a lottery and there are still too many incompetent teachers, he said.

Mr Woodhead, who was presenting his most positive annual report to date, placed himself rirmiy behind the Government's drive to raise standards and sought to play down the controversies that have engulfed him recently. He told a London believe his authority had been damaged by a weekend during which he had to apologise for remarks about sex between teachers and pupils, first re-

vealed in The Independent. Improvements in teaching had yet to show in better test results, he accepted, but argued that there was an inevitable time lag between reforms and their effects. "Significant progress has been made in re- tary of State for Education, becent years. Much, neverthe- lieved that the report vindicated Government's vision of a worldclass education service is to be

Five years ago. Mr Woodhead provoked fury among teachers when he said that there were 15,000 incompetent reachers who should be sacked.

Yesterday's report says that about 3 per cent of primary teachers and 5 per cent of secinspected fell into that catego-

ry – which still gives a total of 15,000, but that figure could have been inflated by the focus of inspections. Mr Woodhead said a high number of bad secondary schools had been targeted for inspection last year, which could have revealed a corresponding proportion of bad teachers.

The report points to a number of primary schools which have seen "spectacular improvements in reading". Seven out of ten show better results and nine out of ten improved teaching. But it says education is still too much of a lottery. If 200 press conference that he did not schools in poor areas can be turned round, why not all? Mr Woodhead blames heads

who do not know what is happening in their classrooms. weak local education authorities and ineffective teacher-training courses for poor schools and teachers. Equally, some local education authorities are damaging schools by wasting money and managing change badly.

David Blunkett, the Secre-

ity of teaching has improved and as a result classroom standards have risen." But he warned against complacency.

Doug McAvoy, general sec-retary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Mr Woodhead's belated admission that his figures are biased by the choice of secondary schools inspected in the year only furundary teachers in the schools—ther undermines the credibility of his pronouncements."



A drama class at Chadwell Heath. The school had improved its results by lightening pupils' load but monitoring performance John Voos

Head with a single lesson for success

"IF YOU want to improve a school, it is boring, nitty-gritty stuff. There are no exciting soundbites in it."

Keith Wilkinson should know. He is head of Chadwell one of the country's most improved schools, according to a list published today by the Office for Standards in Education. And he thinks politicians would benefit from a lesson or two on what their soundbites about raising standards really mean in the classroom.

Seven years ago, the first year of the exam league tables, he found that his school had come bottom in the local education authority, the London borough of Redbridge, Just 22

By JUDITH JUDD

per cent of pupils had scored five or more top grades (A*-C) with similar sorts of pupils were doing better. "The league tables opened my eyes. I had to admit that I wasn't doing my job properly," he says.

So he set to work to change

the attitudes of both pupils and teachers in the 1,200-pupil, multi-cultural comprehensive. The results are impressive. Last year, the proportion of pupils achieving five or more top grades was up to 57 per

cent, well above the national av- but can also take non-GCSE erage of 46 per cent. Exam re- exams in more practical subsults have risen every year jects such as orienteering, except for last year when they media studies or word prodropped by one percentage cessing. "We expect at least Cs point. The sixth form has grown from them. We have lightened

A recent survey found 75 per cent of pupils would recommend the school to others and an even higher proportion said they liked the teachers.

One of his first tasks, Mr Wilkinson says, was to get the timetable right. "Everyone was taking nine GCSEs and some could not cope. Equal opportunities does not mean giving everyone the same." Now, everyone does five core GCSEs

can achieve.'

The school keeps careful track of every pupil. The "boring, nitty-gritty" involves setting performance targets for individual pupils. If someone scores four Cs and, say, a D in history in the mock GCSE exams, the history teacher will be asked to pay particular attention to the pupil to ensure that he or she leaves with five Cs.

Teachers have targets for

improving pupils' performance and tough questions are asked if they fail to achieve them. "It's not a question of blame but I do have discussions with staff about the results," says Mr stand why people agree children do better if you praise them but politicians seem to think you im-

by attacking them." For pupils, there are medals, book tokens, trophies and prizes for every aspect of the schools' activities, from attendance to art. "We are trying to give them ambitions by emphasising the positive and telling them they are good." Broxburn, West Lothian.

Climber survives clinging to ledge

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN Scotland Correspondent

A BADLY-INJURED climber was airlifted to hospital yesterday after surviving a night in sub-zero temperatures clinging to a ledge after he fell 400ft in the Scottish Highlands. Rescuers said Lawrence Reeve from Surrey would almost certainly have perished if the wind had been strong.

Mr Reeve, a 40-year-old computer operator from Chessington, was making his way along a ridge in Glencoe on Monday afternoon when he fell and struck a rock, puncturing a lung and cutting his head. He tried to clamber back to the ridge to seek help but had to give up and stop 200ft from his objective on a small ledge above another drop of hundreds of feet.

He spent the night there in temperatures that fell to minus 12C and was so cold he was unable to open his rucksack which contained food and a hot drink in a flask.

John Grieve, leader of the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, said: "He had his back against a rock the size of a door on a ledge with quite a drop below it and he clung on there all night. He got a punctured lung, a cut head and he's certainly frostbitten too. But he's tough." Mr Reeve was taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William. Last night his condition was "stable".

As dusk fell yesterday, resto reach another climber said to have neck and back injuries after falling from Tower Ridge prove teachers' performance on Ben Nevis, Scotland's highest mountain.

Heavy snow blocked main roads and forced more than 200 schools to close in northern Scotland. In the central belt, mother of three Yvonne Davidson, 34, died after slipping on an icy pavement near her home in

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IN BRIEF

Branson plans fourth balloon trip RICHARD BRANSON is to make a fourth and final attempt to fly around the world in a balloon, he said yesterday.

The entrepreneur said that he hoped the next bid would be "fourth time lucky". He said: "I think maybe after this trip, if we fall again, it might be time to call it a day." Secret pie recipe goes for £450 A 123-YEAR-OLD secret family recipe for pork pies was auctioned for £450. The latest guardians of the recipe.

butcher's shop in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, where townsfolk queue for the unique pies and sausages.

William and Ada Demmon, had retired from Greenlay's

'Infection risk' from germ tests PEOPLE COULD have suffered chest and blood infections because of biological warfare experiments carried out on the south-west coast, according to a report published yesterday. There was a large-scale release of hacteria in Dorset and East Devon in the Sixties and Seventies.

Lottery boost for tug-of-war team

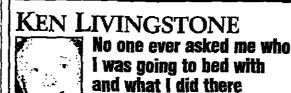
THE 15 MEMBERS of Scotland's national tug-of-war squad have each been given £1,150 of Lottery sports fund cash to assist them in the world championships in Ireland later this month. They hope to improve on their last world contest when they were runners-up in two categories.

Smell triggers accurate memories

EVENTS CAN be remembered more clearly if they are linked to smells, according to research at the Jorvik Viking Museum, York, which recreates the odours of that era. Past visitors who were re-exposed to the smells had a 20 per cent better recall of exhibits than those who were not

Missing Dr Who turns up in time

FANS OF Dr Who are set to get their first glimpse of an episode lost for more than 30 years. The Lion', starring the late William Hartnell, disappeared after the original transmission in 1965, but will be broadcast on The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories tomorrow.



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Ouseholds Outbreak of meningitis is the worst for half a century

A NEW strain of meningitis By JEREMY LAURANCE which has struck fear into a AND CLARE GARNER small Weish community over the last nine days could be behind the rapid rise in the disease across the country which is now running at its highest level for 50 years, experts said yesterday.

As medical teams in Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, comchildren in the town where there have been 11 confirmed cases of meningitis and three deaths, the Public Health Laboratory Service said the strain isolated from some of the cases was first identified in 1995 and already accounted for 70 per cent of cases involving group C

Helplines nationwide have been inundated with calls, with health officials busy allaying fears. In the first three weeks of this year there were 440 notifications of the disease, compared with 255 in 1998 and 304

Young people in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Kent were also being treated for the disease, which has claimed at least 35 deaths this year

The new sub-strain, called C2a, caused major outbreaks in Quebec, Canada, in the early Nineties and in Spain and the Czech Republic before arriving in Britain. Since 1995, the incidence of meningitis has doubled nationally, which could be linked with the arrival of the unfamiliar strain to which the population has low immunity.

At Coedylan Comprehensive School yesterday, there was an atmosphere of fear mingled with relief as all 1,200 pupils and staff received their vaccination against the C strain of meningitis which has already claimed the life of 15-year-old pupil Gareth Gould. Another

pupil, 16-year-old Stuart Mottram, was in a critical condition

in hospital last night. Pupils and staff at the near-Cardinal Newman Roman Catholic school were yesterday saying prayers for cookery teacher Lynn James, 55, who pleted the mass inoculation of died on Monday night from the same C2a strain.

And a 66-year-old woman, also from Pontypridd, died from meningitis on the same day as Gareth. Two other Coedylan teenagers and two 11-year-olds from the lower school are also being treated for the disease. And two children from Trerobert Primary School, also in Pontypridd, are recovering in hospital from the same virulent

Buses had been laid on to transport children from their homes to Coedylan Comprehensive, which was turned into an immunisation centre, but few took up the offer. Anxious to avoid close contact, parents drove them instead.

However, compared with a couple of days ago, the mood of staff, parents and children was calmer. They were relieved that something was being done. Bronwen Keelan, 49, whose

14-year-old daughter, Aimee, attends the school, said: "We've had the antibiotics. My child was vaccinated this morning. There's nothing more we can do. We've got to just hope they've got it right." Over the past few days

lesson of all, she added. "At 14, to suddenly realise that children can die, that they are not invulnerable, is terribly frightening," she said.

was that the community is so close-knit. Staff at the school only had to ring about 10 households in order to get the word out that antibiotics were to be administered on Sunday and

vaccinations on Tuesday. Eiry Rochford, 53, head of Welsh, which is taught as a second language, said: "We're in the South Wales valley here. It's a different community to anywhere else in the world. [Word] just spreads."

By 3pm yesterday the vaccination programme was complete. Nurses packed up the six tables erected in the main hall. which had been transformed into an emergency centre. Further down the corridor

Peter James, chair of the school's governors, announced that the school would be closing until after the half-term break. "This is still a very anxious school and a very anxious county, as I'm sure you will appreciate," he said. He read a statement draft-

ed by the governing body the previous night. "We understand and accept the view of the health authority that the school itself is not the centre of this outbreak. Nevertheless, in view of the current very low attendance at the school, we have decided to close the school as soon as the immunisation programme is complete. We expect the school to reopen after the half-term break

Meningitis follows a pattern of peaks and troughs every 10 to 15 years which may be linked to the arrival of new strains. Aimee had learned the hardest Over the years the population builds up immunity to older strains but a new one can infect more people and cause more virulent disease

A spokesman for the Public The saving grace in this Health Laboratory Service tragic outbreak in Pontypridd said: "There is nothing to sug-

Saturday. However, he added gest the C2a strain is any nastier than any of the other that the incubation period for the disease meant it would not strains, but because we have been exposed to it more rebe safe to give the all clear until cently it may cause more viru-

after the next weekend. Jon Owen Jones, Health minister at the Welsh Office, health consultant for Bro Taf yesterday appealed for parents to be vigilant for signs of meningitis following the outsaid no new cases had been break. He told the Commons in identified in school pupils since response to an emergency

question that it was a "dreadful illness", but treatable if my lovelies," she said, adding prompt action was taken.

Mr Jones said that extra vaccines and antibiotics had been brought into the area from Bristol and the West Midlands to ensure adequate

Back in the entrance of Coedvlan school a nurse waved off the last batch of children.

Freephone 24-hour helpline run by the Meningitis Re-

search Foundation: 0808 800

hopefully, "have a nice half-

term." The pupils looked awk-

ward and subdued as they filed

out, their heads bowed. They

did not reply. How could they?

Tobacco 'victims' unable to sue

By Melanie Harvey

A GROUP of lung-cancer sufferers was yesterday refused permission to sue two tobacco companies.

High Court judge Mr Justice Wright decided not to exercise his power to allow the action against Gallaher and Imperial Tobacco to continue after it was brought outside the legal time limit. The plaintiffs in eight test cases had lodged their claims more than three years after being diagnosed with lung cancer, one missing

the time limitation by 24 years They had asked the judge to exercise his discretion under the 1980 Limitations Act to allow the action to proceed but in a judgment at the High Court sitting in Liverpool he refused that application.

Mr Justice Wright said: "The conclusion I have arrived at in each case is that it would not be appropriate for me to exercise my discretion to allow the cases to continue. Each of the applications must be refused.

Had it been successful, the application would have paved the way for a larger group of lung-cancer sufferers, who lodged claims more than three years after diagnosis, to sue the two firms. Now, 14 sufferers of an original group of 52 will proceed with compensation claims against the firms in a trial due next year.

After the judgment was handed down, Martyn Day and Irwin Mitchell, the solicitors representing the plaintiffs, issued a joint statement. "Obviously many clients will be disappointed ... We now have to consider this very carefully to determine how next to proceed."

A Gallaher spokesman said: We were always confident we would get this judgment. We clearly welcome it."

The lung-cancer sufferers had claimed at an earlier hearing at the High Court in London that the eight suffered injury because all the cigarettes with which they were supplied between the 1950s and 1970s contained far more tar than was reasonably safe or appropriate.

pentlum:]]



Pupils of Coedylan Comprehensive in Pontypridd being vaccinated yesterday after meningitis claimed three lives "Come on then, let's get you off.

Clampdown on adverts by 'irresponsible' Sony

submit all its advertising posters to watchdogs before they are displayed after being branded "irresponsible" following a number of rulings against it.

In the most recent cases, complaints against two campaigns have been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) for being distasteful and offensive. The company is only the

third advertiser to be forced to take the extraordinary measure of now having its advertising vetted in advance. The other two are the Commission for Racial Equality and Talk Radio. In the most astonishing case, 80 complaints were up-

held against Sony's Playstation division for sending to 500,000 homes in October envelopes marked "Private & Confidential" and "Test Results".

Many of those who complained were sick people awaiting real medical test results. One man in Scotland who re-

SONY UK has been ordered to BY PAUL MCCANN Media Editor

> ceived the mock test results was awaiting the outcome of chemotherapy for cancer. Sony's mock results included

an addressed card headed, "This is your medical card", and then went on to say: "I am writing as a matter of urgency with your scan results - they reveal early stages of a progressive condition for which I am prescribing immediate treat-ment...". The mailing also contained mock X-rays. The warning that it did not contain real results was in small print on the other side of the card.

In a separate ruling, the same division of Sony has been told to have all its posters vetted after the ASA upheld eight complaints against a poster for its game, Tekken 3. This poster featured a dismembered body in a mortuary with its feet pointing out of opposite ends of a sheet. The advertiser said the poster was meant to be surreal and comic

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Sony's Coolboarders game advert brought complaints about drug references

like a cartoon, but the ASA ruled that it was too realistic. "Sony is certainly irrespon-

sible," a spokesman for the ASA said. "It is quite rare to have two taste and decency complaints upheld in one monthly report. Admittedly, there have always been problems with computer games because they are targeted at 18- to 25-year-olds, but the companies have enough money to buy posters which are seen by everyone. The same adverts would not attract rulings if they had been in style or Playstation magazines."

Sony had to rapidly take down a poster campaign for its Playstation game Coolboarders last year after it attracted complaints about the drug-references in the advertisement. The posters included the phrase: "My body aches for Powder, I need the rush. Have to get higher than last time."

Dr Meyrion Evans, a public

Health Authority, which is han-

dling the south Wales outbreak.

And in 1997 Sony was again in trouble when it printed an advert on thin perforated card so that 70 small oblong shapes could be torn off and rolled up to form "roaches" - filters for cannabis joints. The cards appeared in style magazines, such as i-D and Mix Mag, and were handed out to clubbers.

A spokesman for Sony denied that the company deliberately used shock tactics: "The Tekken 3 poster campaign was seen by 10 million people and just 10 complained about it, but of course we will comply with the ASA ruling. We have already apologised personally to everyone who was aggrieved by the mail out."

Irvine Welsh held on drink charge IRVINE WELSH, author of the By Jackie Burdon

book Trainspotting, was arrested for being drunk on a rail- ing of his play You'll Have Had Weish was held in Exeter po-

lice cells after a binge which stretched over two days and several counties. A British Transport Police

spokesman said the 41-year-old writer had been arrested on a Exeter last Friday evening. He had been "causing problems" in the buffet bar.

Welsh was later released after being given a caution.

Last Wednesday night, he had toasted the London open-

way station, it emerged Your Hole, which has been attacked by critics for foul language and violent sex. He was also celebrating

completion of a new single recorded that day with his band Hibee Nation. Welsh's spokesman said: "He had been celebrating and drinking with platform at St David Station in his friends ever since the gala premiere on Wednesday night. He was very up with it all."

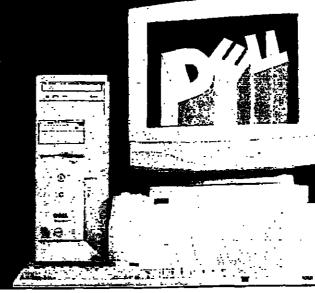
After police released him, he went to a local club, where an official said: "He was jovial, good-natured and good com-

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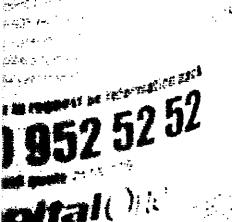
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Lesley Howies, the first woman to join the 144-year-old Black Dyke Mills Band, rehearsing in Queensbury, West Yorkshire

Law forcing doctors to go on defensive

DOCTORS WERE resorting to By JEREMY LAURANCE defensive medicine in the face of confrontational and litigious patients who had lost faith in the medical profession, the country's chief medical regu-

lator said last night. Sir Donald Irvine, president of the General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary body, said a major change in the regulation of doctors to ensure they maintained high standards and protect patients from poor practice was required if public trust was to be restored.

In defensive medicine, patients receive sometimes unnecessary and aggressive treatment to avoid a charge of **Health Editor**

medical negligence. The implication of Sir Donald's comments is that if there were greater trust in doctors the essure on them to treat de-

fensively might recede. On the eve of a vote by the council today on a proposal that every doctors' right to practise should depend upon passing regular checks of their connetence throughout their careers, Sir Donald said there was a realisation within the profession that "British medicine

must be changed utterly". He was speaking yesterday at the launch of a book, Medical Mishaps, by Linda Mulcahy, to which he has contributed a chapter, at the Kings Fund in London. In the book, he states that patients have been demanding to know how they can be assured that "the doctor they will see next week at the surgery or the hospital is really up to date and on top of the

Patients were seeking a less dependent, more evenly baianced relationship with their doctors, which some welcomed but others found difficult and demanding. "Across a broad spectrum of the profession there is a general anxiety that we may be drifting towards a more confrontational and litigious climate in Britain in which defensive medicine becomes part of everyday prac-

Sir Donald, a former GP in Northumberland who has been president for two years, has campaigned to reform the regulation of doctors in the wake of high-profile cases, including the Bristol heart babies disaster and the Kent gynaecologist

who injured scores of women, which have fuelled public

The cases exposed the arrogance, insularity and lack of accountability of some doctors and the fact that after completing training there were no further checks on performance.

Doctors have also come under pressure from the Government, which is seeking to take powers under the NHS Bill to alter regulations governing their registration.

However, Sir Donald's efforts to deal with these twin pressures suffered a setback last November when the 104member council accepted the principle of regular checks but refused to agree that those who failed them should be struck off the medical register.

A steering group was set up to examine the process of "revalidation", and in a report last week it said it must be linked with continued registration. In place of exams. which were rejected, the checks would involve drawing up performance "profiles", including targets to be met and a record of participation in clinical audit, which would be monitored by external assessors.

Doctors who failed the checks would be offered advice and retraining or, in more serious cases, be dealt with formally under the GMC's performance procedures. Striking a doctor off the register would be the ultimate sanction. Sir Donald has staked his

reputation on the outcome of today's vote and if the reforms are rejected he could be forced

If the vote is carried, as expected, it will usher in the biggest change in regulation of doctors in more than 100 years.

Waiting lists rise by 13,000

FRANK DOBSON is facing a BY COLIN BROWN fresh blow to his promise of cutting NHS waiting lists with the publication tomorrow of the latest figures showing that the number of patients waiting for treatment has risen by 13,000. promises on the NHS.

However, the Secretary of the rise in the December figures is a "blip" caused by the extra winter pressures on NHS November, the last month for hospitals, and he will achieve his target of cutting the total by lished, stood at 1,162,100, which 100,000 by April. "We are still on represented a fall of 31,400 on course to achieve cur target," said a Whitehall source. Mr Dobson ordered the fig-

ures to be collected and published each month. He has been advised the figures for the first quarter of this year would mark an over all reduction of over 40,000, comfortably achiev-

by 100,000 is achievable by the to meet its target.

Chief Political Correspondent

end of the Parliament, in spite

of the December rise. The cause of the rise in the numbers waiting is believed to The increase will be attacked by have been a combination of the Tories as a sign of the Gov- flu, GP surgeries closing for the ernment's failure to deliver its Christmas and New Year holidays, and a panic over meningitis which led patients in State for Health will argue that droves to seek help in accident and emergency units.

The total number waiting in which the figures were pubthe previous month. The total number waiting fell by 136,000 between March, when he gave his pledge, and November. The Health Minister, John

Denham, will be announcing more cash with special assistance for health authorities, which have demonstrated they ing his promise a year ago to get the waiting lists down, by April, to the level inherited are modernising services. The new pay deal for the NHS, ranging from 4.7 per cent for from the Tories when Labour most nurses to 12 per cent for nurse trainees, will have to be The Health Secretary has remet partly from efficiency sav-assured Tony Blair that ings, but the Health Secretary Labour's general election denies that this will put extra pledge to cut the waiting lists pressures on the health service





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Vaiting liss

or undue anticipation. After to run into Private Ryan's archall, it was 5.30am – a ludicrous of any kind, but one that gave a telltale clue about the true

purpose of the proceedings. Honouring the most distinguished film professionals of being handed out at the back of the past year was only part of the theatre. Is there a client on the story. The main object of the exercise was to pack as many scouring the small print of freshly honoured nominees on awards for make-up, sound to the breakfast television shows as possible.

As the president of the Acad- from Miramax looked particuemy of Motion Picture Arts larly smug. Not only was their and Sciences, Bob Rehme, stepped out onto the stage with his celebrity co-host, Kevin Spacey, producers and publicists nervously cradled their tration camp comedy, garnered mobile phones in one hand and an astonishing seven nominafingered their list of key phone tions - the biggest cull ever for numbers in the other.

recting, screenwriting and best film - proof, if any was needed, that Mr Spacey set his alarm not for the benefit of the asand applause for a few of the prime force in that business. popular nominees - Cate Blanchett and Lynn Redgrave though, Miramax now has to obviously have their fans win the war - or rather hope among the foot-soldiers of the that its versions of war (Life is big networks - but the affair was Beautiful) and love and war treated largely as a mechanical (Shokespeare in Love) win out exercise in media logistics.

home!" murmured one TV ex-ecutive as his name came up for Malick's The Thin Red Line). All best supporting actor in the will be revealed on 21 March.

was barely a murmur of haste is there he will find it hard not rival, Shakespeare in Love 113 time to organise a media event nominations), which is showing in the festival competition.

The brief show over, the real scrum began as publicists ran for the full nominations lists this list, they all wondered, awards for make-up, sound editing and best documentary.

Amid the confusion, the folks Shakespeare in Love the biggest winner of the morning, but Life is Beautiful, Roberto Benigni's bittersweet concena foreign (Italian) film, includ-The presenters did not bothing nods for best film, best er read out the whole list, just actor (Benigni), best director the nominees for acting di- (Benigni) and best screen writer (Mr Benigni again).

This coup was no fluke - Miramax has been promoting clock and donned his best suit both films with extraordinary energy since the start of the sembled hacks but to brighten year. The Oscars are quintesthe feeds to the morning news sential show business, and magazines. There were cheers marketing is increasingly the

Having won the battle "Let's call James Coburn at visions of conflict on offer (Sov-



The actor Kevin Spacey and Academy president, Robert Rehme, announcing the names, backed by images of best actor nominees, from bottom, Roberto Benigni, Tom Hanks, Ian McKellen, Nick Nolte and Edward Norton

A Simple Plan.

Supporting Actress: Kathy Bates, Primary Colors; Brenda Blethyn, Little Voice; Dame Judi Dench. Shakespeare In Love; Rachel Griffiths, Hilary and Jackie; Lynn Redgrave. Gods And Monsters. Director: Roberto Benigni, Life Is Beautiful; Steven Spielberg, Saving Private Ryan; John Madden,

Shakespeare In Love; Terrence Malick, The Thin Red Line; Peter Weir, The Truman Show. Foreign Film: Central Station, Brazil; Children Of Heaven. Iran; The Grandfather, Spain; Life Is Beautiful, Italy;

Tango, Argentina.

Screenplay, written directly for the screen: Warren
Beatty and Jeremy Pikser, Bulworth: Vincenzo Cerami and Roberto Benigni, Life Is Beautiful; Robert Rodat, Saving Private Ryan; Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard, Shakespeare In Love; Andrew Niccol, The Truman Show. Screenplay, based on material previously produced or published: Bill Condon, Gods And Monsters; Scott Frank, Out Of Sight; Elaine May, Primary Colors; Scott B Smith, A Simple Plan; Terrence Malick, The Thin Red Line.

Hague unveils his 'caring Conservatism'

WILLIAM HAGUE will answer his Tory critics by unveiling a new brand of "caring Conservatism" during a five-day North American tour starting tonight.

The Tory leader, facing growing criticism from his MPs after failing to slash Labour's commanding lead in the opinion polls, will argue that the party can no longer rely on its traditional economic competence to propel it back into

He will say that the Tories must convince people that they hold the right values and the new policies to tackle social issues such as health, education, welfare, crime, the inner cities and the underclass.

"In the 1980s, the problems facing Britain were on the economy, but today there are different challenges," said an aide

Details of Mr Hague's new agenda emerged in an internal party report, leaked to The Independent, which suggests that the Conservatives will water down their long-held support for the free market.

"Although the market is one of the most useful tools we have, it is just that - a tool," says the report, sent by Conservative Central Office to local activists as part of a policy consultation exercise. "Conservatives do not worship the market as an

end in itself: they value it as a useful means to an end."

The report continues: "The Government should stand ready to intervene in the market in the interests of economic efficiency or because some other aspect of our well-being depends upon it - provided that a strong case can be made.

During his trip to the United States, Mr Hague will hold talks with Republican strategists and politicians in the hone of learning lessons on bow the right can fight back against the centre-left, now in the ascendant in Europe and America. He will meet George Bush Jr, the Governor of Texas and son of the former US president, who broadened Republican appeal through "caring" policies such as a big drive to improve

literacy in schools. Mr Hague will make speeches on "the right way" - his response to Tony Blair's trumpeted "third way" and on "com-

mon sense Conservatism". The Tory leader will stress that "compassion" does not necessarily mean higher spending, adding that, while adequate funding is an issue, new ways must be found to tackle

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could face a £10m rise in rates for every 1 per cent rise in the business rate across the UK."

Abattoir delays

It could take "some years" before supervision by vets of slaughterhouses could be brought up to European standard, said Agriculture Minister Lord Donoughue.

Melting the image of the actress turned ice queen

"OPEN-MINDED though I am, masochism has never had any attractions for me," confessed Glenda Jackson, responding to an impertinent inquiry about her private appetites from Dr Stephen Ladyman.

He had invited her, should she be at all that way inclined, to indulge in the delicious degradation of a rail trip to Ramsgate, a journey that she would have to make in "an antediluvian carriage knee-deep in filth". When I see Ms Jackson in the has finally gone mad. house I'm afraid I can't help but think of Oliver Reed, wrapped around her like a freakishly hairy

"Tchaikovsky's wedding night" scene in Ken Russell's overheated biopic about the composer - a scene in which Tchaikovsky failed the nuptial assay of his manhood, looking on aghast as Ms Jackson writhed unsated on the floor of a Connex South East commuter who

Dear me, how different she is today. Any masochists in the house - and one assumes there must be boa constrictor, but Mr Ladyman's a couple - will have recognised with When she assures the House that choice of phrase provoked quite an- a secret thrill that her talents lie in

other flashback. Surely these were duite the opposite direction. On her the very words used by Mary White-showing in the Commons she would house to describe the notorious make a formidable maitresse, the features sculpted into a mask of implacable severity, the stern voice with that nasal topnote, which operates like auditory cat-o'-ninetails, flicking at whichever cringing MP has risked a question.

She does smile now and then, it's Tsarist sleeper carriage, like a true, usually when a frontbench colleague has stung the Opposition, but what a chilly and transitory thing that smile is - more a flickering contemplation of cruelties to come than an expression of warmth.



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

"will be spent on improving road services in London" you can't imag-"every penny" of road charges ine that anyone would dare to

spend a penny in any other way. That this impression might be misleading was revealed by closer inspection in one of Westminster's salles privées. Because later in the afternoon Ms Jackson was addressing Standing Committee A, considering the Greater London Authority Bill, the legislation which paves the way for a London mayor.

Of course the transformation isn't magical – for long periods she wears the sort of expression you might summon if asked to mime Witchfinder-General listening to a plea in mitigation" - but the vigour of the procedures does seem to exert a broadly mollifying influence.

Standing Committee A would Taylor, after he'd risen to intervene lighten anyone's mood, being conducted by its chairman, Nicholas Winterton, as if it is an odd kind of legislative game show. Mr Winterton speaks as though the committee members are in the Upper Circle of the Royal Albert Hall, rather than just a few feet away, and manages the business with a choleric joviality, booming his catchphrase - "As many as are of that opinion say AYE!" - in the unmis-

takable cadences of Bruce Forsyth. His brisk bark can be unsettling. "Mr Chairman, you're so frightening I've completely forgotten what I was going to say," confessed John

she added that he shouldn't have said bald - the correct term was "follicularly challenged". I could have sworn from the smile on her face that she was ac-

tually enjoying herself.

during a discussion about ensuring

that the Mayor's staff represented

the diversity of London's citizens.

his wits he made his point - bald

people should not be discriminated

against either. Well, maybe wits isn't

the right word, but Mr Taylor's lit-

tle joke melted Ms Jackson further

after serving up her usual portion

of procedural small print in reply

After a few seconds to recover

Labour left fears gap in unions Bill

LABOUR backbenchers called EMPLOYMENT for safeguards to protect workers rights' in small companies vesterday, criticising the Government's decision to exclude them from legislation to make

union recognition compulsory. Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, challenged ministers cut-off point for firms with less than 20 employees under the Employment Relations Bill.

Speaking during the Bill's second reading debate, Mr Skinner warned there were large numbers of firms that had already granted recognition to various trade unions in workforces of under 20 which may now change their policy.

"One of the dangers that can arise, is that some of these firms might well say because there is a cut-off point, and I have got 18 employees, therefore I will abide by the law that said. says I don't have to accept trade union recognition ... What kind of safeguards will be

made available? But while Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, acknowledged the leagues at work. This Bill will

By SARAH SCHAEFER

"disappointment" that was felt by some workers, he said the legislation did nothing to discourage voluntary recognition.

Stressing the Government over their decision to include a did not want to impose an undue burden on business, he said: "This is, we believe, a reasonable and balanced package ... the Government has taken

> have a cut-off." Under the Bill, unions will gain automatic recognition if they have more than 50 per cent in a bargaining unit in companies where the workforce is bigger than 20.

> The measures would boost the trade union movement because workers would now see a reason for joining, Mr Byers

"At long last, in 1999, we will ensure that no one can be blacklisted simply because they belong to a trade union or are prepared to defend and represent the interests of their col-

replace the policy of conflict between employers and employees with one of partnership, a partnership based on rights matched by responsibilities."

More disputes should be settled by negotiation by extending the deadline for an industrial action ballot to up to four weeks. "Some steps were needed to curb the worst of trade union exses and these measures will be retained," Mr Byers said.

Under the legislation "famithe view that it's reasonable to ly friendly" policies, partnership in the workplace, and equal and fair treatment for all workers, regardless of whether they work full or part-time, would be ensured, he said.

John Redwood, the Tory spokesman on trade and industry, attacked the Bill and said it would "jeopardise employment, endanger the successful legacy of good industrial relations left by the last Government, impose further damaging costs on British business and risk industrial strikes and disruption. rather than leaving employers and employees free to settle relationships for themselves without outside interference".



Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP, snapping the Earl of Lichfield as he opened the Parliamentary Photographic Group's exhibition at the Commons in Westminster yesterday. The show, open until Friday, has more than 100 images, taken by members of both Houses

Tom Pilston

ny car tax breaks to end

GORDON BROWN, the Chan- TRANSPORT company car owners as part of a strategy to reduce pollution, inisters signalled yesterday. Dr John Reid, the Transport

cellor, may scrap tax breaks for By SARAH SCHAEFER AND COLIN BROWN

dication so far that an increase of taxes for motorists to get Minister, gave the clearest inmore people into public transport would be part of the Chancellor's forthcoming budget on ments," he said.

time that Mr Brown took an cars is more than twice the "enlightened and rational" view national average. It accounts

fallen on stony soil". areas, the tax breaks which encourage people to drive more

hand the disincentive by taxing poor fuel efficiency. as benefits in kind those employers and employees who benefit from buses, for instance being laid on to bring them to work, have been subject of discussions between our depart-

Dr Reid said during question country's 2.3 million company and concerns "would not have for 10 per cent of congestion on the roads and for emitting eight "I can confirm that two million tons of carbon dioxide

The Chancellor is also ex-

business miles, on the other pected to penalise cars with charging on motorists com-He has already announced his intention to charge owners

of small-engined cars £50 less than the £150 car tax. But William Hague, the Tory leader, warned that an increase of taxes on company cars could ronmental measures should be introduced as part of a low

taxation strategy. would use the election cam-

pounds from a controversia

new tax on local businesses, the

Government revealed yester-

day. Rilary Armstrong, the

Environment minister, pub-

lished radical proposals that

would allow 40 "beacon" coun-

cils to put up bills by up to 5 per

Mrs Armstrong said that Britain's most efficient local

authorities should be rewarded

with the power to raise their

own cash, but the Conserva-

tives and business groups im-

mediately condemned the plan

as a "back door tax" that would

quality services will be given the power to levy the extra

charge on top of the existing

show that they have turned

around failing schools or offered

residents other outstanding

"bread-and-butter" services

Beacon councils will have to

national business rate.

cent over five years.

cripple small firms.

Councils given

HIGH-ACHIEVING councils will be allowed to raise millions of By Paul, Waligh

BY PAUL WAUGH

Simon Burns, the Conserv-

atives' environment spokes-

man, said that the idea of a new

local business tax would horrify

most firms. "Businesses both

small and large would suffer

from having to bail out councils.

This takes the gloss off

[Labour's] attempt to portray.

beacon councils as centres of

excellence. It is a quite dis-

director of the London Cham-

ber of Commerce, said: "We

have great concerns about

this. Councils have been dying

to get their hands on the busi-

ness rate again, but we believe

that no local rate should be set

unless more than half of the

firms agree to it in a referen-

dum. No taxation without rep-

est top slice, but we calculat-

ed recently that a company

"It may appear to be a mod-

resentation, is our stance.

Andrew Hawkins, policy

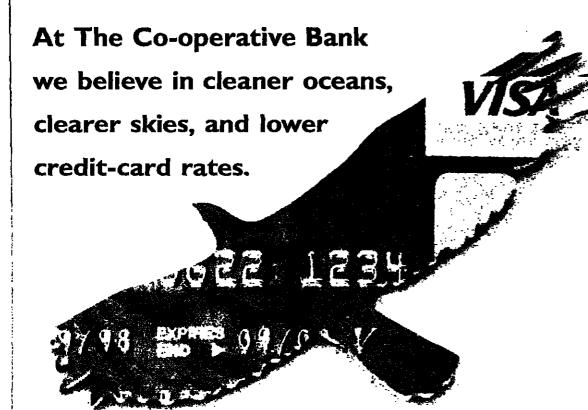
graceful idea," he said.

muting by car into the capital. Richard Ottaway, the Tory spokesman on London, said: "It

is just using the motorist as a milch cow. It will be a tax by the back door and we are going to oppose it as part of our election campaign."

gested that motorists would have to be charged £8 to force them onto public transport but The Tories also said they Mr Ottaway said the Government was considering a charge paign for the new Mayor of Lon- of £2. "That won't deter anyone. don to fight the Government's It would be a new tax on moplans to introduce congestion torists," he said.

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Minister in GM foods row new tax power

CONSUMER AFFAIRS BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

LORD SAINSBURY, the Trade and Industry Minister, came under renewed pressure from the Tories yesterday to clarify potential conflicts of interest between his business interests and government policy on genetically modified foods.

John Redwood, the Conservative spokesman on trade and industry, insisted last night that the supermarket millionaire should not be allowed to make

any decisions on GM foods. In a letter to Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, he said that the Government needed to "take a cool hard look" at the scientific evidence to decide which of

the products was safe for sale. Lord Sainsbury's continuing interest as a shareholder in the Sainsbury supermarket chain gave the impression that he had made up his mind about the safety of GM foods, Mr

Net concerns

A review of the industry-

backed Internet Watch

illegal material, mostly

Michael Wills said

Foundation found that the

organisation had dealt with

453 "actionable" reports of

foreign child pornography,

"I am very worried that leav-



Lord Sainsbury: Conflict

ing Lord Sainsbury in charge of the DTI end is bad for the food industry and bad for cus-

tomers," he wrote. "Will you now take the nec-essary action to ensure that a proven record of providing high minister who has not made up his mind on these matters is put in charge of these issues at the

Mr Redwood also asked Mr Byers to check whether Lord Sainsbury had maintained an interest in the Gatsby Trust, a charitable foundation that allegedly funds the promotion of GM products.

such as refuse collection and home repairs. QUESTIONS

ANSWERS Piercing checks

AND

Trade and Industry Minister Local authorities are set to gain powers to regulate

cosmetic body piercing businesses, Public Health **Extradition** push The Government has Minister, Tessa Jowell, said. received 10,000 responses At the moment only local on the General Pinochet authorities in London have case and 9,000 supported his power to license, register and inspect body piercing extradition, Home Secretary Jack Straw disclosed.

NHS criticism Tory peers attacked the

Government's Health Bill, which abolishes the NHS internal market and sets up primary care trusts as "a recipe for inflexibility. inefficiency", with a lack of

Cook under fire

Labour leaders of a crossparty group of 330 MPs are seeking an urgent meeting with Robin Cook after attacking his efforts to forge closer diplomatic and commercial links with Iran.

THE HOUSE



See the manning



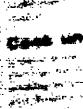
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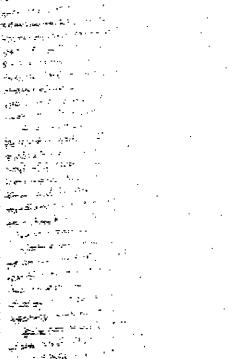
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Councils give new tax pow

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parts artisticism





A PRISON doctor was struck off By IAN BURRELL the medical register yesterday after prescribing lethal doses of methadone to two prisoners who had no registered histories

of heroin abuse. Dr Archibald Alexander, from Croydon in Surrey, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct at a General Medical Council hearing in London. He has 15 years experience with the prison medical service. said Dr Lee-Potter.

The GMC disciplinary comcsponsible" in prescribing fatal doses of the heroin substitute to Carl Owen and Date of the stitute to Carl Owen and Date Prison in south London in 1994. The committee chairman,

Doctor struck off

over prison drugs

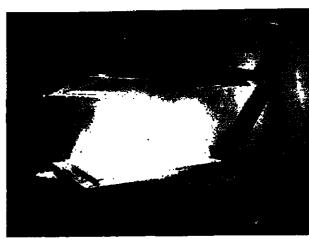
Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, accepted that Mr Owen and Mr Davies tried to fool the 63-year-old doctor into believing they were suffering withdrawal symptoms.

"A conscientious assessment of the ... patient's condition is a fundamental aspect of good clinical practice and is essential before initiating treatment."

Dr Alexander treated both mittee found he had been "ir- men with 50 millilitres of methadone and a twice-daily dose of valium for heroin withdrawal without property checking their medical history, said Michael Mansfield QC, representing the families.

Saatchi donates £500,000 Britart package to nation







The donation of work by young British artists of the Nineties includes (from the left) James Rielly's 'Object of Fun', 1995; Rose Finn-Kelcey's 'Steam Installation'. 1992; and Siobhan Hapaska's 'Saint Christopher', 1995

CHARLES SAATCHI, the con- BY DAVID LISTER temporary art collector, is Arts News Editor donating 100 works of art to the Arts Council's 7,000-strong collection. The gift, estimated to be worth £500,000, will join the collection which is administered by the Hayward Gallery at South Bank in Lon-

exhibitions and loans to galleries and museums in Glasgow, Liverpool, Penzance and Newcastle.

Mr Saatchi's gift includes some of the more bizarre of-

Young British Artists - such Mr Saatchi said: "No instiworks as Rose Finn-Kelcey's tution does more than the Steam Installation - a dancing Hayward Gallery on behalf of the Arts Council to curate vortex of steam contained in a touring exhibitions and loans giant "waffle" construction and John Frankland's You to the nation's galleries and Can't Touch This - a gold lobby museums. It will give these and lift created entirely from artists a chance to be seen laminated polythene stretched more widely across the

Special zones for asylum seekers

THE HOME Secretary is to BY IAN BURRELL assume new powers to commandeer council homes for use by asylum seekers. The plan, to force local authorities around Britain to set up new of the Immigration & Asylum

Bill published yesterday. The move by Jack Straw is regional towns and cities. The Bill states that if the Home Secaround £500m a year by a new sufficient accommodation by voluntary agreement with the local authorities of an area" he may commandeer the identified properties for the purpose of

housing asylum seekers." Yesterday the Home Office minister Michael O'Brien said the refugees would not be placed in "sink estates". He whereby sponsors would be said: "The aim is to put them in clusters in areas where there's an element of support. We think a visitor to the United Kingdom it's on this basis that the asy-

to London and the South-east." The Government hopes to take the financial burden off councils in London and near Channel ports by paying authorities elsewhere in the country £165 a head to house

> The Bill which Mr Straw described as the "most comprehensive overhaul" of the and Afghanistan. The exception immigration system for decades, states that asylum seekers would be paid in vouchers not cash. Those who refuse to remain in their allocated accommodation will automati-

> Mr Straw said: "If you are just trying to take us for a ride and you mess about and place yourself in a position where you and Romanians, and has can no longer receive support, that's your decision."

Among new measures des-

Home Affairs Correspondent

tion is an end to so-called "quickie marriages" by requir-"Reception Zones", forms part ing couples to give 15 days' notice of their intention to wed.

A crackdown on unscrupulous immigration advisers will bound to provoke criticism that include an annual charge of the Government risks creating £6,300 for any firm wishing to ghettos in unwanted housing in practice in this area. The Government also hopes to save retary was "unable to secure fast-track appeal process aimed at making an initial decision on a case within two

> A fine of £2,000 per illegal immigrant is to be imposed on the drivers of vehicles who smuggle people into the country.

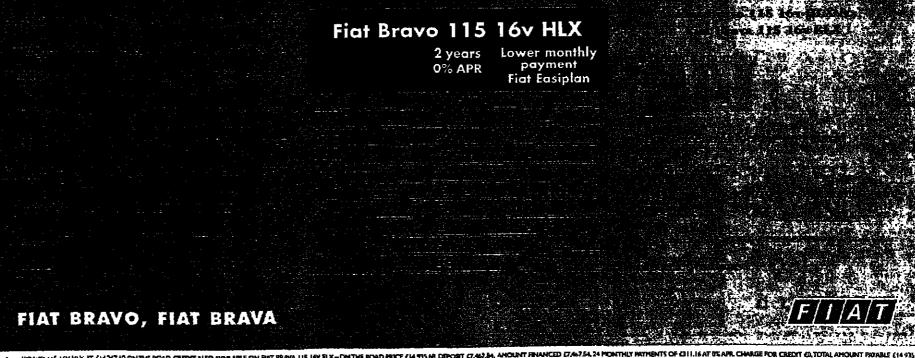
The Bill includes plans for a new financial bond scheme asked to make a payment as a guarantee of the intentions of The money would be forfeited lum seekers don't all filter back if visiting conditions were breached. Family visitors are to be given a right of appeal if their applications to visit British rel-

atives are turned down. Mr Straw produced figures showing that in 1998 most asylum seekers came to Britain from areas of conflict, notably the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Somalia, Sri Lanka was Lithuania, from where 1,300 refugees arrived last year, a pattern which Mr Straw described as "a racket".

He said the Government was also disposing of the concally lose their right to support. troversial "White List" system, which imposes special visiting restrictions on selected nationalities, including Bulgarians caused diplomatic tension.

Leading article, Review, page 3

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It blames political correctness for senior officers' refusal

First European bird to become extinct for 150 years

BY BRIAN UNWIN

A RARE SPECIES of curlew is in grave danger of becoming the first European bird to die out since the great auk more

than 150 years ago. Only nine siender-billed curlews - which breed in Russia and central Asia and winter in places such as the Mediterranean - were seen throughout the world last year.

A smaller cousin of the familiar Eurasian curlew, one of Britain's best-known wetland birds, the slender-billed has for several years been classed as "critically endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

"I suspect that, without a miracle, it will become extinct in the next decade," said Dr Will Cresswell, an Oxford University omithology lecturer.

"One characteristic of species with very low populations - and in the case of the slender-billed curlew there could be as few as 50 left - is that they bump along for years and then something happens and they vanish for good."

Dr Cresswell joined an expedition last summer which spent 10 weeks searching the Kustani, Petyropavlovsk and Paylodar regions of Kazakhstan for nesting grounds. Not one was found. In fact, no one has set eves on a slenderbilled curlew's nest since 1924, when one was discovered in

A big problem for conser-





vationists is the mystery over

the bird's movements and the

precise whereabouts of its

breeding grounds and winter

The latest edition of Birding

World magazine reports sight-

GREAT AUK

DEATH OF THE

THE great ank, a flightless seabird resembling a very large razorbill, had no defence against human predators and became exfinct in 1844 when the last pair were killed on a small island off Iceland. The last one in Britain died on St Kilda, the remote Scottish island group, in 1840. Two islanders beat it to death. believing it to be a witch.

April birds turned up at two places in northern Greece, with up to five at Porto Lagos and three on Lake Mitrikou. The only other report was of one in Druridge Bay, Northum-

only three locations. During

The slender-billed curlew will probably be extinct in a decade, says an Oxford University ornithologist RSPB

Rarities Committee, was the first sighting in the United

accepted by the British Birds

Tangier and Rabat. But each present at a site in southern Italy up to late March, but they did not return in subseyear the number decreased quent winters.

world expert on slender-billed curlews is Adam Gretton, now with the Farming and Wildlife

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on three expeditions to Siberia and one to Kazakhstan looking for nesting birds, without success. In 1994, he estimated the population to be between 50 and 270 birds, but their status appears worse now. He

were up to a dozen records a year internationally. But now that it is down to two or three. the situation is very worrying. But there is a ray of hope. There could be birds wintering regularly in places where access is difficult. "It is possible there could be

regular wintering in Algeria. Iraq and Iran, which, because of the political situation, have become no-go areas for people studying birds. However, the situation is improving in Iran so it may be possible before too long for an expedition to go in there to look for possible sites." Mr Gretton pointed out:

"The other problem continues to be finding their breeding territory. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack. It's somewhere on a marshy steppe east of the Ural mountains, but finding a dimmishing population in such a vast region is very difficult."

Slender-billed curlews are generally about 20 per cent smaller than their Eurasian cousins and their long, curved bill is more delicate, but superficially they are very similar and can be told apart only through careful examination. This adds to the problem.

Mr Gretton said at least 17 were known to have been killed by hunters over the past 20 years. It was difficult to prevent this happening when they looked so similar to Eurasian curlews, which are a popular target of hunters.



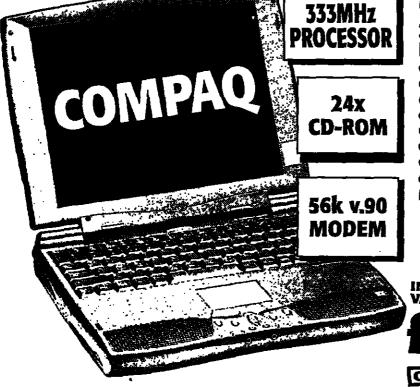
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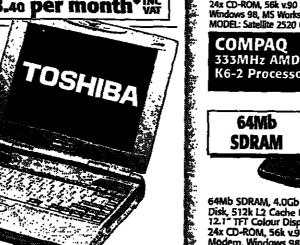
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Pensions threat to offending police

BY IAN RURRELL. Home Affairs Correspondent

JACK STRAW the Home Secretary, is planning to introduce governing police disciplinary new powers allowing him to confiscate the pensions of police officers who commit serious disciplinary offences. Mr Straw announced the was planning to retire.

proposal yesterday in response to increasing concern that police officers have escaped punishment for serious failings by taking early retirement.

The Home Secretary's comlect committee, come days before the publication of the report into the police investigation of the murder of the black teenager Stephen Lawrence.

Only one of five senior officers criticised over their roles in the investigation, Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, will face disciplinary proceedings. He will go before a tribunal next month charged with seven counts of neglect of duty.

A Police Complaints Authority (PCA) report into the Lawrence investigation, which came after a year-long review of the conduct of officers in the case, recommended that five detectives should face disciplinary charges. But the four most senior officers - Detective Chief Superintendent William Ilsley, Det Ch Supt Roderick Barker, Detective Superintendent Brian Weedon and Det Supt Ian Crampton - had already retired on full pensions when the

PCA announced its findings. Amid the public outcry that followed, the PCA called for major changes to the law procedures.

Disciplinary charges were only brought against DI Bullock after it emerged that he, too,

Yesterday Mr Straw said he was looking at introducing powers that would enable him to confiscate up to 75 per cent of a police pension - the proportion which is contributed from ments, to the Home Affairs se- state funds - if an officer had committed a serious disciplinary offence.

The Home Secretary currently only has such powers of confiscation in relation to officers who have committed a criminal offence and then retired.

Asked what he was doing to prevent officers from retiring to avoid being disciplined, Mr Straw said: "If they reach retirement age you cannot force them to stay in the service but I'm considering, where there is a public interest, that you could look to act on the pensions question."

Mr Straw also used the committee's debate on police training and recruitment to make a scathing attack on police forces which failed to employ black and Asian officers because "they think they are in wholly white areas". He identified eight forces which had less than 10 ethnic minority officers.

Officers' morale 'badly damaged'

BY JASON BENNETTO Crime Correspondent

SENIOR POLICE chiefs a frightened of offending Britain ethnic communities because of "political correctness", th journal of the Police Federatio has claimed.

An editorial in Police say morale among officers has bee enormously damaged" by the unwillingness of their leaders to defend them against charges of racism in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

It says: "In falling over each other to proclaim their liberal credentials, some senior officers are bringing the entire area of police relations with minorities into ridicule and contempt."

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ys	Devon and Comwall	2.962	five
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to justify the disproportionate number of black people stopped and searched. The reason, it suggests, is that: "black people are also 'over-represented' among convicted criminals..."

FAVOURITES ON THE BABYBOOMERS' PLAYLIST

True wind be Vibra

ir 150 yean

Radio 2 oldies help pep up charts

RADIO 2, the station that for By DAVID LISTER three decades was associated with the parents of record buyers, is now helping to dictate the pop charts.

As more and more fortysomething listeners tune in both the singles and albums charts are showing the influence of the Radio 2 playlist. The arrival of Blondie this

week at the top of the charts 18 years after the group's last British number one is not just a tribute to the power of peroxide and 53-year-old singer Debbie Harry. It is confirmation that Radio 2 can now make hits.

It also means that those in the 35-to-55 age group, thought of as album buyers only, are reverting to the habits of their youth and once again buying singles. Radio 2 attracted 200,000 new listeners in this age-group during the last quarter. Blondie's single "Maria"

Arts News Editor

was on the A-list of Radio 2's playlist, meaning it was played 20 times a week

Before championing the re-turn of Blondie, Radio 2 backed The Mavericks, who became the country music success of last year, and the Irish family act, The Corrs, who surprised all pop pundits by having three hit singles and the highest selling album of the year.

The station has been particularly successful in championing revivals by bands that their listeners would have remembered from their first days of record buying. Aerosmith went from the Radio 2 playlist into the charts before Christmas. Last year also saw chart success from Culture Club and

All of those were initially ig-



Their album Talk On Corners sold about 1,680,000 copies last year, helped considerably by three singles from the album, which were on the Radio 2 A-list. Radio 2's Geoff Mullin says: "We championed them for a very long time."

nored by the Radio 1 playlist, as He sent it to Miss Kennedy; she are the new singles by George played it, and it went to number 1. Record companies are impressed that artists stay on Michael and Elton John.

Perhaps the most graphic Paddy Prendergast, chief and bizarre example of Radio 2's new power to affect the charts is the case of a number called "Hot Panty Woman". A fan of the Radio 2 broadcaster Sarah Kennedy heard this obscure single by the US band Barefoot Man when he was on holiday in the Cayman Islands. for us now. It used to be Radio

executive of the Ritz Music Group, which incorporates Grapevine, the record label which has released The Kinks, Emmylou Harris, and the Irish artists Mary Black, Sinead Lohan and The Swans, said: "Radio 2 is the first port of call

pressed that artists stay on the Radio 2 playlist for much longer periods than with Radio 1. Sinead Lohan stayed

BLONDIE

one in the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties.

Radio 1. The new single was the record of

They are the only band to have a number

This time around, though, they were

championed by Radio 2 rather than

the week on the Ken Bruce show.

on it for three months." Geoff Mullin, head of music at Radio 2, said yesterday: "We were long-time champions of The Corrs. Radio 1 got on board only when they started doing remixes. Aerosmith was a big hit for us and now Blondie. The

fortysomethings have got something to do with it. But our listeners include children with parents, parents themselves and grandparents. And so mostly I go for highly melodic pop, great vocals and high pro-

AFROSMIYH

The Seventies rock band's latest single, "I

number one at the end of last year. It was

Don't Want To Miss A Thing", went to

on Radio 2's A-list and was played 20

times a week for over a month. Ed

Stewart was a big Aerosmith fan.

"What's happening is that two streams of successful popular music have been created. The Radio 1 stream is Placebo and the Manic Street Preach-

duction values.

ers. We are the other stream melodic popular music with lyrics people can remember." Gennaro Castaldo, of the record-shop chain HMV, said: "It is happening, but one shouldn't exaggerate it. Singles buying is still largely the domain of teens and twenties. But

what we are finding in research

we have done is that fortysome-

things will revert to buying

the case with Cher, which became known as the perfect divorcee single. It was good music to hoover by:

THE MAVERICKS

The American band spearheaded a country

music revival last year and filled the Royal

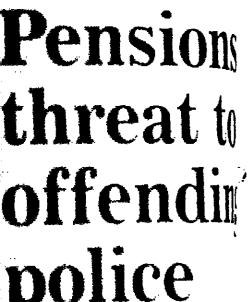
them and featured them live in concert on

Albert Hall. Radio 2 was the first to play

a Saturday night. They were also on the

station's New Country show.

"For a group like Blondie, the fortysomethings are certainly buying singles. And when you remember that at this time of year 20,000 to 40,000 sales can take you to the top of the charts. then those forty something purchases become even more sig-



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Inner London heads the European wealth league INNER LONDON now tops Europe's league of wealth producers, according to new EU figures. Statistics released yesterday show that the centre of the capital produces more than twice the average EU level of wealth per person, and scores significantly higher than its ciosest rival, Hamburg.

without the considerable wealth-creating capability of the City, scores poorly, with a rating of only 87 per cent of the EU-wide average. Inner London scored 222 per cent.

London's elevation to the statistical reclassification than London would only just scrape

By Stephen Castle in Brussels

to a sudden leap in wealth generation. Previously the British capital was well down the list because it had one entry as Greater London and fell well below Hamburg and a clutch of major European cities.

However outer London, Eurostat, the EU's statistical service, said the change had been made at the request of the British government to mirror administrative changes. It lists the population of inner London as 2.7 million, with outer London at 4.36 million, but shows top of the table owes more to a that if they were combined,

Politicians greeted the results with caution. Pauline Green, leader of the socialist group in the European Parlia-

ment and MEP for London North, said: "The figures mask pockets of great deprivation. "The danger that real need will be obscured by the power of the City to generate wealth

is highlighted by the figures for outer London. These depressing figures give a truer picture of London's continuing need for EU assistance." Statisticians also caution

that the figures do not indicate individual personal wealth, and that many of those who work

into the top 10 with 138 per cent. and generate wealth in one area commute in from another. EU's population lives in the 50

However inner London's strong performance highlighted the acute disparities in the UK's economy, with several regions rating around one third of inner London's rating.

No British regions fell within the bottom 10, made up of between the lowest reading, for parts of Greece, Portugal, Spain and former East Germany.

But of the 50 EU regions which fell below 75 per cent of the EU average, four are in the UK: Merseyside at 73 per cent, South Yorkshire at 74 per cent, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly at 70 per cent and West Wales and the Valleys at 71 per cent.

Overall, 20 per cent of the poorest regions and Germany, as well as the UK, had pronounced differences between regions. By comparison some nations presented a more balanced picture; in Sweden there was a relatively small difference Ostra Meliansverige at 91 per cent. and Stockholm, which

registered 122 per cent. The figures were worked out by using the regions' gross domestic product, adjusting it for exchange rate differences to take account of purchasing power, then dividing by the number of people in the area.

GDP PER HEAD IN THE EU



2 Hamburg, Germany 3 Darmstadt, Germany 4 Brussels, Belgium 5 Luxembourg 6 Vienna, Austria 7 Ile-de-France 8 Oberbayem, Germany 10 Antwerp, Belgium

207 Azores, Portugal 206 Voreion Aiyaion, Greece 205 Madeira, Portugai 204 Extremadura, Spain

202 Dytiki Ellada, Greece

201 Chemnitz, Germany

200 Andalucia, Spain 199 Magdeburg, Germany

EU average, 100. 208 regions surveyed

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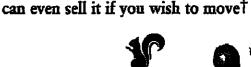
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Yeltsin

returns to grave reviews

RY PRIL REEVES in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN went back to work yesterday after his trip to King Hussein's funeral failed to convey the impression that he was an active world leader rather than a fading invalid.

He arrived at his Kremlin office amid a growing row over claims that the Russian Central Bank had funnelled \$50bn (£30hn) of hard-currency reserves over five years into a Jersey-based shell company, which managed and invested the assets.

Kremlin aides tried hard to give the impression that, despite leaving Jordan after only six hours, the President - recently stricken with a bleeding ulcer - was back in business. He was "in excellent condition", said a spokesman.

But pictures from Amman told a different story. They showed him looking pale and bloated, and walking with difficulty: a performance that did not impress the Russian press. "Yeltsin did not make it to the grave, but was very close to it," said Moskovski Komsomolets

Some commentators saw his trip as an attempt to reassert his authority. "Power is slipping from his fingers and he decided to use possibly one of his last chances to rehabilitate himself politically," said Nezavisimaya Gazeta.

The attempt fell flat. Conflicting reports circulated over whether his brief trip had been interrupted for medical treatment. Jordanian officials said it had been; the Kremlin denied it. American officials in Amman spoke privately of their shock at his condition. As he returned to his office.

a scandal was building over financial allegations by Yury Skuratov, the recently sacked prosecutor-general, which could put fresh strains on Moscow's relationship with its Western creditors.

Senate shuts doors for verdict

THE MONTH-LONG impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton looks set to fizzle out behind closed doors this week after senators voted yesterday to keep their final delibera-

tions confidential. Citing the Constitution, precedent, economy of time and the interests of frankness, a sufficient number of senators opposed opening up the session to ensure that the reasons for Mr Clinton's exoneration will re-

main hidden indefinitely. Although in the majority, the proponents of openness and accountability could not muster the 67 votes required to open the debate. After the 59-41 vote, the 100 senators sitting in judgment over the United States leader vanished behind the

heavy doors of their chamber. Even three weeks ago, this debate - open or closed - had been anticipated as the culmination of the US constitutional process the cliff-hanger climax of a trial of principle and precedent. Yesterday, though, and Senate. The prosecutors, there was little public indignation, no suspense and not even members of the House Judia whiff of a sense of history. There was only the shared hope that the senators' selfimposed purdah might hasten days passed that they were the end, and suspicions that the not being taken seriously. prime concern of anti-glasnost popular president within

earshot of their voters. Mr Clinton, meanwhile, was holding the fort alone at the White House, with his wife participating in a population conference in The Netherlands. He will be spared by default, because the Republican majority cannot win over the 12 Democratic votes needed to convict him. Yet even in so predictable a verdict, there were still points to be fought over.

There was trepidation in the Republican camp, for instance, that they might not garner even a simple majority of "guilty" votes on the first article of impeachment alleging perjury. And yesterday, a mafority even on the second charge - obstruction of justice started to look shakier than By MARY DEJEVSKY

in Washington

Thus far, the Republican vote has held solid (except on the question of whether to call Monica Lewinsky to testify in the chamber in person), and it is a matter of pride for Republican leaders that there should be a majority "guilty" verdict, even if it is not sufficient to convict and remove him.

It is crucial also for the 13 prosecutors from the House of Representatives, led by Henry Hyde, who were entrusted with arguing the case against the President after the House impeachment vote in December.

After a triumphal beginning, when the strength of their opening presentations was widely praised, the prosecutors became increasingly disenchanted with the jurors.

Several have been open about what they felt was condescension stemming from a class divide between House all lawyers by training and ciary Committee, which forwarded the first impeachment recommendation, felt as the

After their closing argu-Republicans was not having to ments on Monday, some even voice their condemnation of a complained to reporters about the whispering and fidgeting going on in the Senate ranks while they were speaking. And, with one or two notable exceptions, their speeches were more mechanical than impassioned and, in the words of Mr Hyde, who wound up for the prosecution, there was resignation shot through with bitterness. The senators, he implied, were choosing to sacrifice high principle for their own political ends, collective

and individual. At the end of a speech studded with literary and historical references, he betrayed a deep sense of disappointment. "Will an America survive that is worth fighting for?" he asked, and signed off: "Let us all take our place in history on the side of honour - and, oh yes, let right



Hillary Clinton at the UN Population Fund forum in the Hague, attended by 1,500 delegates from 180 countries

Man faces jail for stream of expletives

TIMOTHY BOOMER is cursing BY DAVID USBORNE the day he went canoeing last in New York August on Michigan's Rifle River. He will not be venting his feelings out loud, however. At

least, not in front of the children. Cursing, in fact, and a 101year-old state law forbidding it when women and children are in earshot, has already got Mr Boomer into trouble. A Michigan judge this week ruled that

because of a few choice words allegedly spoken by him on the river that day, he must stand trial. He faces a jail term.

The alleged crime was committed when Mr Boomer, 24, tipped out of his canoe. He reacted by unleashing a stream of expletives - just as a couple

and their two children were judge dismissed arguments paddling by. According to Tammy Smith, the mother, Mr Boomer's outburst was so loud and obscene she had to cup her hands over her two-year-old daughter's ears. In her complaint to police, she claimed Mr Boomer in particular had yelled one curse word "over and over and over and over again". On Monday, a Michigan

that Mr Boomer should be protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution guaranteeing rights to free speech and ordered him to stand trial for violation of the 1897 law on blaspheming. The trial will begin on 24 February. If he is found guilty, Mr Boomer could be punished with 90 days in prison and a fine of \$100.

"Mr Boomer's words were without any socially redeeming quality whatsoever," Judge Allen Yenior wrote in his opinion. "The First Amendment suffers no damage here by taking a back seat to the compelling interest in the morality of our children." The decision will be

appealed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

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Eritrea set for war of attrition

THE INDEPENDENT

ETHIOPIA AND Eritrea are BY LUCY HANNAN fighting a full-scale war along in Badme, Eritrea their disputed frontier, in defiance of a peace plan and airstrike moratorium put in place by shuttle diplomacy in June. Both sides used the past

eight months to rearm and mobilise. Since Saturday they have launched one of Africa's most bitter and sophisticated international wars. Before dawn yesterday an Ethiopian plane bembed the hillside settlement of Lailai Deda, 40km inside the disputed Badme triangle. When dawn broke, five deportees -Eritreans expelled from Ethiopia - were found dead. including a baby. Their UNdonated tent had been reduced to ashes and blood-soaked clothes lay among cooking pots and household goods. Dying and burnt livestock lay near the bomb crater. Relatives and villagers wrapped the bodies in traditional white cloth and carried them to a church.

At 9am the whine of a fighter plane sent those attending the funeral into panic. A curtain of dust and smoke rose a mile away. "They can see the white tents," said Asmerum Berke, a relative of the family just killed.

It was the first time Ethiopian planes had bombed deep inside the disputed triangle, seemingly targeting a large camp of deportees ordered to leave Ethiopia over the past year. Eritrea says there are 52,000 such people, although Ethiopian officials insist about 10,000 "posing a security risk" have been expelled. According to the Ethiopian government, 40,000 Ethiopians have been "systematically expelled" from

erations, as the two countries have close historical ties. President Issaias Afewerki of Eritrea and President Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia were once fellow rebel leaders, whose guerrilla movements joined forces to defeat one of Africa's largest armies in 1991. Eritrea became, with the co-operation of President Meles, Africa's first secessionist state to win full independence, in 1993.

Relations deteriorated when Eritrea launched its own currency last year, and when disagreement on border delineation, primarily at Badme, flared into armed clashes. Although Badme was being administered by Ethiopia, with an MP and an administration, Eritrea said maps clearly showed the territory to be Eritrean and in May sent in troops to occupy the area.

Once "blood brothers", the two sides are now mobilising several hundred thousand troops, modern warplanes and weaponry and hundreds of tanks and field guns.

In Badme, Eritrea's southern front, heavy shelling from both sides continues throughout the afternoon until nightfall. Ethiopian helicopter gunships strafed the rocky outcrops, trying to dislodge Eritrean troops dug in at Geza Gera Sellaasie on the disputed border. Four Ethiopian prisoners of

war sat in a shelter not far from the front. They wore camouflage uniforms and plastic sandals. They are from far-flung corners of Ethiopia, and say the Many deportees - from both war is "not ours". Kadir in the intense heat, and the



he was forcibly recruited from school. Abbas Mohamed, an Oromo, says he surrendered -"the Ethiopian government is only fighting for itself".

In a trench near by, bodies of Ethiopians are decomposing sides - had been living in the Abdulkadir, 16, from Jigiga, the ground-shaking thump of heavy

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possible until night-time. Then the injured are carried down on stretchers and vehicles bring in supplies and reinforcements. New fronts have opened since Monday in Tsoronna and Zel

Ambessa, two hours' drive from Asmara, Non-essential international

international flights are infrequent.

Diplomats are reluctant to evacuate with the speed shown in June. "We hope this time Asmara won't be bombed." said one. But the escalating war has dashed hopes of a negotiated agreement.

Cook plays down Kosovo hopes

THE FOREIGN Secretary, Robin Cook, and his French counterpart, Rubert Vedrine, yesterday visited the French chateau where Serbs and Albanians are holed up for peace talks, in an attempt to push the negotiations forward.

They made it clear, however, that there was little to get excited about so far. "Don't expect miracles," said Mr Cook. "It's not going to happen sud-denly, out of the blue." Mr Védrine said the situation was very complicated". The US envoy Chris Hill tried to put a half-positive gloss on negotiations, saying he was "very pleased by progress". But he admitted it was "not easy",

and "frankly, not a lot of fun". The 13-man Serb delegation and 16-man Albanian team have refused to talk face-to-face at the chateau in Rambouillet, outside Paris.

In an indirect warning of a further spread of the fighting, the Albanian Prime Minister, Pandeli Majko, said that if killings continued and a solution were not found, all ethnic Al-

BY STEVE CRAWSHAW

cluding Albania and Macedonia. which has a substantial Albanian minority - would "have the right to organise their collective defence". He said Albania would offer its ports and airports if Nato troops were deployed in the region.

Mr Cook said he and Mr Vedrine would make recommendations to the other members of the Contact Group - the US, Russia, Italy and Germany - at a meeting in Paris, probably on Sunday. The threat of Nato air strikes still theoretically remains if the talks fail. Meanwhile, the Contact

Group wants both sides to agree to a deal which would give Kosovo substantial auionomy, some of which it enjoyed, and lost, in the old Yugoslavia. Serbia wants to keep tight control of the province; the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, a 90-per- cent majority of the population, want full independence.

The Yugoslav Foreign Minister. Zivadin Jovanovic. re-

foreign peace-keeping troops should be deployed in Kosovo . He referred to a deal between the US negotiator Richard Holbrooke and the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, in October, saying it had defined the extent to which an international presence was permissible, with foreign observers on the ground.

The Kosovo situation is more tangled than that in Bosnia, where the elected government favoured foreign intervention to protect civilizats and end the killing. Kosovo, on the other hand, is internationally seen as part of Serbia.

Any troops sent, short of declaring war on Serbia, would have to be with the agreement of Mr Milosevic. He is expert at making a tactical retreat at the last moment to protect his power. Some Serbs believe he could do so on Kosovo, presenting a peace deal as proof of his statesmanship. But the loss of Kosovo, which many Serbs see as their historic heartland (although so few live there) would be difficult to prejected the suggestion that sent as anything but a deteat.

created in 1993 to try cases of

official wrongdoing, "insults

the victims". He developed Aids

after receiving transfusions in

1985. The accused face up to five

years' prison and 500,000-franc

Mr Hervé said France had

responded quickly to the advent

of Aids. "I assume responsibil-

ity for my actions, and I state

that the government might

have under-estimated the dead-

Ms Dufoix acknowledged

my innocence."

liness of the virus.

(£54,000) fines if convicted.

Aids man says HIV-blood case insults the victims

THREE FORMER French min- BY IRWIN ARIEFF isters charged with manslaughter in a scandal over HIV-tainted blood proclaimed their innocence, but an ailing victim said the proceedings were a miscarriage of justice.

Speaking as the trial opened vesterday, the ministers said they had done their best to deal with the epidemic in the mid-1980s and history had been rewritten to blame them for thousands of infections from the tainted blood. A victim, Yves Aupic, 40, branded the proceedings, in a special court for

indicted politicians, a "scandalous miscarriage of fustice". The former prime minister Laurent Fabius said he thought of the victims' suffering every

"both respect (their) pain and serve the truth". In the dock with Mr Fabius, 52, who was France's youngest prime minister when in office from 1984 to 1986, were ex-health ministers Edmond Hervé and Georgina Dufoix. The case, brought by seven victims, of whom five have died, will test whether ministers can be held accountable for their subordinates' actions.

The ministers say they did not realise the extent of the Aids threat but the victims said this was a transparent excuse from

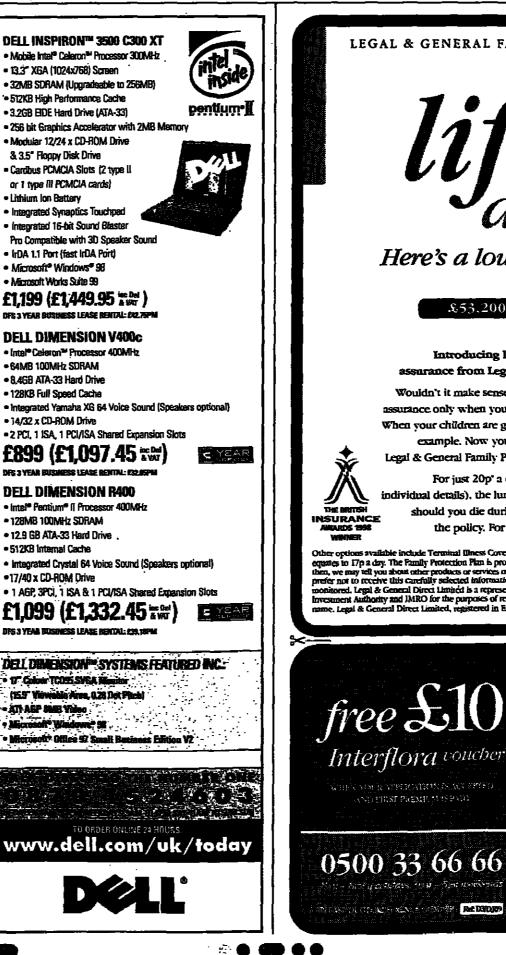
The victims and their friends an arrogant political élite. Mr Aupic, standing with the

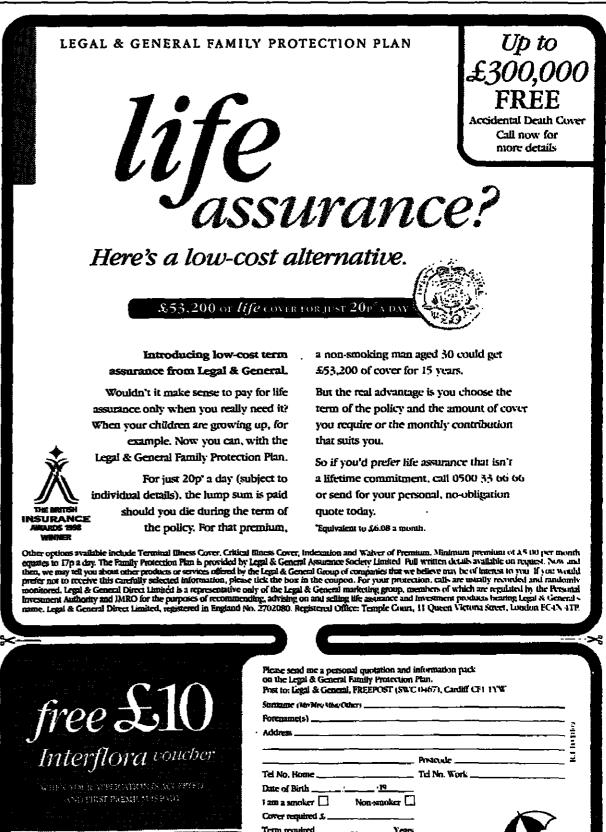
and relatives say the trial will show the three were aware of the risks of HIV-infected blood and blood products but failed to help of crutches, said he would take the steps required to proday but wanted the trial to not testify because the tribunal, tect the public. (Reuters)

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like the Premier League." Mr Cao envisages selling a 30-40 per cent slice of the Liaoning club, which also runs a secand team, a youth team and six football schools, and owns a sta-

Asked why on earth an Eng-China's top division.

"The English football industry needs to expand its market. indispensable for that expansion," he said.

team buy a controlling stake in Liaoning? "I would not agree on this very easily, we would have many conditions to discuss," said Mr Cao.

Chinese fans are avid fol- day's average wage.



stand to accuse senior ministers of concocting rumours that he was a promiscuous homosexual.

In his second day as a witness in his own trial, Mr Anwar, the former deputy prime minister, claimed senior figures had conspired to discredit him by circulating anonymous letters accusing him of sodomy and adultery.
According to Mr Anwar, two

high-ranking police officers told him that the Finance Minister, Daim Zaimuddin, and the Trade Minister, Megat Junid Ayob, were involved in the campaign, along with Aziz Shamsuddin. political secretary to Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad.

"[The police] alerted me to seriousness and the

against me," Mr Anwar said.

They impressed upon me that the involvement of Tun Daim, Megat Junid and Dato Aziz Shamsuddin, who are known to be close associates and confidants of the Prime Minister, would certainly complicate the investigation. [The police] came up with this grand design of some political personalities out to finish me.

"I was surprised when told that the outfit to disseminate [the letters] employed at least 40 people to do so."

After seven years as a close friend and chosen successor to Dr Mahathir, Mr Anwar was sacked last September. A few weeks later he was charged with sodomy and abusing his ministerial power in order to cover his sexual transgressions.

was the victim of a political conspiracy, masterminded by Dr Mahathir, who he says feared him as a political challenger.

"My suspicion was that the Prime Minister didn't want his close associates to be implicated," he said. "Particularly Daim, who is widely known to have a phobia of courts."

During the 12 weeks of his

been supported in a succession of own goals by prosecution witnesses, including police officers who admitted intimidating witnesses and being prepared to lie under oath. Yesterday, one of the men alleged to have been sodomised by Mr Anwar denied the charge, claiming he had been threatened intimidated and drugged into making a confession. "I have never been sodomised by Anwar

He has always claimed that he document. "[My confession was] a fictitious version obtained with threat and pressure and drugs, which they made me

> Last month, the charges against Mr Anwar were amended removing from the prosecution the obligation to prove sexual misconduct.

Four charges of corruption remain, however, each carrying trial, this version of events has a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison and a 20,000 ringgit (£3,200) fine.

Mr Anwar's sacking provoked a fortnight of mass demonstrations in Kuala Lumpur as crowds of supporters railied to hear his speeches demanding political reform and the resignation of Dr Mahathi

After his arrest they dwin dled, but yesterday some 20 people demonstrated near the court, carrying placards reading "Conspiracy Revealed" and Ibrahim at any point," said "Down, Down with Mahathir Mior Abdul Razak in a sworn

Second-rate Chinese team seeks premier slot

FOR CAO GUOJUN, the East is By TERESA POOLE Red - or it would be if Manchester United would only buy a slice of his football club. Mr Cao, owner of the Liaoning football team in north-east China, is looking for a stockmarket-quoted, English Premiership club to take a stake in his business, and the "Red Devils" are top of his wish-list of foreign devils he is

hoping to negotiate with. In recent years, Chinese ing their star players to Eurotime a mainland team has said it wants to sell part of the English or Italian team would be an attractive partner, but for me I would prefer an English one. I think the English marketisation of football is more mature," said Mr Cao.

"Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal – the big ones, we like them all. And of course we

A Manchester United strip

dium and other facilities.

price for such a stake of 100m yuan (£7.5m),

lish team would be interested in such a deal, he outlined a glorious future in which China's estimated 400m football fans would be snapping up the seasonal strips and other merchandise of the fortunate English team. Advertising, television rights, and the opportunity to swap promising players were all on the table, with the north-eastern rustbelt cities bonus that last season Liaoning carned promotion to

But would he let an English

in Peking

lowers of English football, and games are regularly broadcast live on television

Students laughing as they taunted soldiers blocking their anti-government protest in Jakarta yesterday

"The clubs of the English Premier League are household names in China. So I think the merchandise of English clubs is sure to have a ready

market in China," said Mr Cao. In Fushun, the declining industrial city of 2.5m which is football clubs have started sell- home to the Liaoning team, replica Manchester United pean sides. But this is the first strips are readily available in sports shops.

"Co-operation over players is an important reason for sell ing some of our company.

We hope there can be more exchanges between Chinese and British players and coaches," said Mr Cao, who has already bought in a South Korean and a French player for this coming season. The Premier League team

Crystal Palace also had its eye on the mainland's potential last year when it signed up two players from the Chinese national team. Since then, Chinese newspapers and magazines have been full of articles about how Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai are enjoying life at Selhurst Park in south London

Although football is very popular in China, its business side is relatively undeveloped. compared with other countries Last week, for example, Pepsi bought itself sponsorship of the top league, henceforth to be known as the "Pepsi League". for a mere 90m yuan (£6.7m) even less than the price of that Liaoning stake.

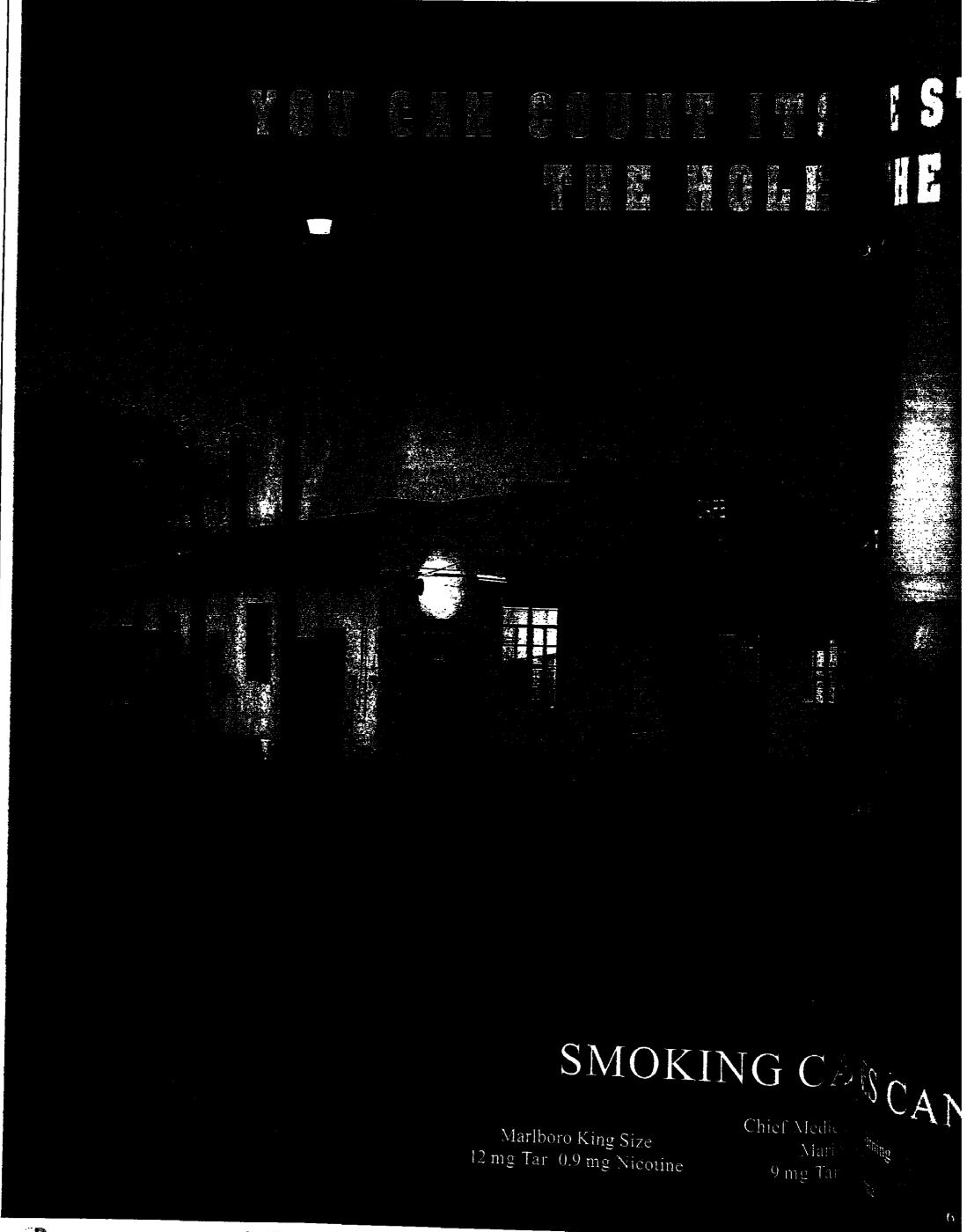
Wang Wei, chairman of China M&A Management, who is advising Liaoning, said that some English teams and one Italian team had shown interest, according to a Hong Kong accountancy firm which is acting as a middleman.

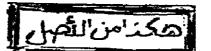
'The Chinese people will love the idea. It will also help the European team come to China. He suggested a benchmark So many Chinese fans will know their name, a potential investor will get its name known in China," he said. It would also help the valuation of Liaoning when it seeks its hoped-for Chinese stockmarket listing sometime in the next couple of years.

> Any English purchaser would also be doing a lot to cheer up the locals in a rather depressed part of China.

Fushun is one of China's where middle and large scale state enterprises have been closing by the dozen, throwing large numbers out of work.

Liaoning's success last sea The Chinese football market is son was one of the few bright spots on the horizon, and attendance at football matches seems to have weathered the city's economic decline. Mr Cao said most home games had gates of 25,000-30,000, even though at 30 yuan (£2.30) the tickets represent more than a





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States, is the reason, you let getting enough oxygen.
In prehistoric times, before form - claims to add the oxygen

In prehistoric units we started deforesting the we started deforeshing planet, 30 per cent of the air Now the average is around 21 per cent and ...
cities like Los Angeles it is as cities like Los Augusta. That low as 12 to 14 per cent. That pure oxygen straight to your low as 12 to 14 per cent. Inc.
leads to disease and fatigue," explained John wood, a chef who considers himself and the subject. expert on the subject.

As indeed he should, Mr Wood is the general manager of a trendy new "oxygen bar" on Hollywood's Sunset Strip where, for \$13 (£8) a pop, customers are invited to insert a plastic tube up their nose and plastic tube up their nose and spend 20 minutes breathing a cocktail of "oxygen-rich" air, fruit flavourings and aromatherapy oils with names such as Clarity. Passion and Joy. To Clarity, Passion and Joy. To judge by the queues snaking around the corner at week-

Meanwhile, a company

LOS ANGELES

of the O2 bar, makes even more grandiose claims: "Studies have shown oxygen to be benin your system that simple breathing cannot provide. eficial in fighting cancer, heart disease, chronic fatigue and mi-"Your bloodstream absorbs the Vitamin O and carries the graine headaches. Oxygen may even slow the ageing process."

So is this a great medical cells and tissues," the advert breakthrough, or a load of explained. "There, it maxbaloney? According to Bob imises your nutrients, purifies your bloodstream and elimi-Park, a physics professor at the University of Maryland who nates toxins and poisons." specialises in debunking It sounds so simple. "There's not enough oxygen in the air in pseudoscience, the makers of Vitamin O blow their own gaffe big cities, or in northern latiwhen they admit in their adtudes in wintertime, because there is no grass producing verts that their product contains "a liquid solution of sodium oxygen or leaves on the trees. said Rose Creek's president. chloride and distilled water".

Don Smith. His company has "They tell people exactly what they are buying," he said. "Ordinary salt water." No wonbeen selling 50,000 vials of Vitamin O per month, and he swears he has received testider the company claims Vitamonials from grateful cusmin O is "so safe you can drop tomers who have enjoyed relief it in your eye". from conditions such as wheez-

Is it not possible that the water has been oxygen-enhanced? It is possible, acknowledges Professor Park,

You get more oxygen from a single deep breath than from a

daily dose of Vitamin O," he said.

Your correspondent was too tight-fisted to try Vitamin O, but he did venture to the O2 bar, where the oxygen is consumed on a long circular banquette adorned with brightly coloured cushions. Behind hangs an array of metal flexi-tubes which transport the oxygen down into flavoured aromatic

water and up into your nose. The whole thing looks and feels like an opium den, except that the merest trace of vice has been erased. O2 - which curiously is co-owned by the Hollywood bad boy Woody Harrelson - is so pure it serves no alcohol, and its restaurant of-

Oxygen bars did not start in California, but came here via Tokyo and Toronto. If there are not more of them in the US it us felt oncoming headaches. is partly because of federal restrictions on natural gases in places of public entertainment.

So who frequents them? According to 02 staff members,

tomers from the Red Rock bar next door, who come in to sober

up and to stave off a hangover. With the canula inserted up my nose and a steady stream of Clarity-flavoured oxygen whooshing into my system, I asked the manager, John Wood, whether the gas comes straight from a tank or is purified in house.

"It's not oxygen; it's oxygenrich air," he explained, a little cagily. Street air is passed through a custom-built filter to make it purer. How much purer? He would not say, for fear that any claim might be challenged in court by some smarty-pants customer.

I walked out, with my com-

fers only uncooked vegan food. panion, feeling slightly giddy, not unlike the sensation of having breathed in exhaust fumes. Within minutes, both of

The bar's slogan is "Eat -Drink - Breathe - Love!" Fine sentiments, but I am not sure I will be rushing back for more. ANDREW GUMBEL



Members of a club in Manhattan stocking up on oxygen

ing and achiness.

Richard DeAndrea, a Los

Angeles doctor and part-owner

Welcome to Marlboro Country.

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Britain tries to defend HK court

FOR THE first time since the BY STEPHEN VINES handover of Hong Kong, Britain in Hong Kong has expressed criticism over a Chinese threat to the autonomy of the colory.

The intervention came after attempts to limit the jurisdiction of Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal. Yesterday, the British consulate in Hong Kong issued a statement saying that it would be "a matter of serious concern" if the court's powers were lim-

The agreement to set up the court was part of a series of deals negotiated in the run-up to the handover, Until now, Britain has maintained a resolutely upbeat stance on the progress of Chinese rule in its former colony. However, this optimistic stance is proving hard to maintain in the face of what is being described as the most serious constitutional crisis since the takeover. Martin Lee, the leader of the Democratic Party, describes it as "an atomic bomb" lurking beneath Hong Kong's relationship with its new sovereign state.

Last week, Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal ruled on an interpretation of the Basic Law, or mini-constitution. This involved reversing a decision which barred Chinese mainland children born to a Hong Kong parent from having the right to remain in Hong Kong.

At first China said little about the ruling but in the past two days Peking has put into question the very independence of the Hong Kong legal system by insisting that the ruling be overturned and stating that the bighest court in the former colony had no right even to make the ruling. "This is a very serious matter", said Zhao Qizheng, head of China's State

Council information office. China prepared the ground for its bombshell statement by releasing a number of negative commentaries by Chinese legal experts. Hong Kong officials

statements did not amount to a statement of policy but they were followed by a barrage in a burgeoning row over China's the Chinese-controlled media. The tone and ferocity of the

media attacks have not been seen since China criticised the British-controlled regime which ended in July 1997. Local lawyers and political groups have expressed alarm

over the Chinese stance. Yash Ghai, a law professor, said that China was threatening to "completely undermine" the system of autonomy which China promised for Hong Kong's legal system. Emily Lau, a leader of the pro-democracy Frontier party, said: "I think this is the most serious crisis since the change of sovereignty." This has left Tung Chee-

hwa, Hong Kong's head of government, in a very difficult position. He issued a carefully worded statement saying that his administration was giving "detailed consideration" to China's views and hoped the matter could be resolved in accordance with the "one country, two systems" principle which gives Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy.

The controversial judgment by the Court of Final Appeal could give rise to a flood of Chinese immigrants. Many of those who came illegally have started to camp outside the government offices, insisting their rights have been upheld by the courts. The police have arrested some on suspicion of overstaying their admission permits. The situation is becoming in-

creasingly fraught. Yesterday Peter Churchouse, the managing director of the investment house Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, said that unless the matter was resolved quickly and the matter of jurisdiction clarified, Hong Kong's role as an international financial cenhad been hoping that these tre could be "put in question".

Iranian spy chief quits after murders

PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD Khat- BY JONATHAN LYONS ami took a major step yesterday to extend his authority over Iran's powerful secret police, after a string of dissident rivals on the defensive.

Tehran state television reported Mr Khatami had officially accepted the resignation of the Intelligence Minister, Qorbanali Dorri Najafabadi, who was responsible for both internal security and foreign espionage. It did not name a successor, but press reports say it will be Ali Yunesi, chief of mil- his position. (Reuters)

itary tribunals and head of a special commission formed by Mr Khatami to investigate the murders threw his conservative mysterious murders of nationalist politicians and secular intellectuals. Mr Yunesi, like the outgoing minister, is a Shia Muslim cieric.

Many key powers lie with the country's supreme clerical leader and not the president. By placing his own candidate at the head of the intelligence services. Mr Khatami could strengthen

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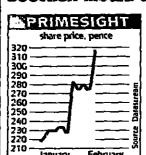
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Output declines throughout UK

EVERY REGION of the UK saw a decline in manufacturing orders in the four months to January, the Confederation of British Industry and Business Strategies reported yesterday. All regions also out output and jobs. The biggest falls in output occurred in the West Midlands, Yorkshire. the Humber and South-west, and the biggest job cuts came in the North, North-west and West Midlands. However, one region, Northern Ireland, saw an improvement in business confidence, and elsewhere the decline in confidence was less rapid than in the previous survey.

Scottish Media to buy Primesight



SCOTTISH MEDIA, the TV and newspapers group, is diversifying into outdoor advertising with a £35m agreed offer for Primesight, the poster advertising

company. Scottish Media is offering 320p in cash for each share in Primesight, which has 5,700 six-sheet outdoor advertising panels, a 10 per cent market share. Shares

in Scottish Media fell 7.5p to 850p while Primesight shares rose 31p to 316p

Emerging markets still risk crisis THE RISK of a fresh financial crisis in emerging markets remains far higher than normal according to Goldman Sachs, the investment bank.

In a new analysis it puts the probability of a crisis at nearly one in six, with the Czech Republic, Taiwan, Turkey and Venezuela among the countries most at risk. However, it foresees a no more than normal risk of crisis in China, which many analysts have feared will be the next market to fall victim to the continuing global turmoil.

In addition, the 16 per cent probability of a currency crisis, while above the normal 9 per cent, is down from its dangerous peak at the end of 1998. This had been elevated by the risks in Brazil, which duly proved correct.

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FTSE 350	2759.10	-24,40	-0.88	2969.10	2210.40	2.84
FTSE All Share	2670,65	-22,20	-0.82	2886.52	2143.53	2,88
FTSE SmallCap	2222.00	4.90	0.22	2793.80	1834,40	3.64
FTSE Fledgling	1218.10	-0.60	-0.05	1517.10	1046,20	4,43
FTSE AVM	833.60	-3.30	-0.39	1146.90	761.30	1,20
FTSE Europop 100	2684.52	-56. <u>8</u> 3	-2.07	3079.27	2018.15	2.19
FTSE Eurotop 300	1173.02	-24,19	-2,02	1332.07	880.63	2.05
Dow Jones	9207.69	-80.58	-0.87	9647.96	7400.30	1.66
Mikkel	13902.66	-89,83	-0.64	17352.35	12787.90	1.05
Hang Seng	9244.49	104.89	1,15	11926.16	6544.79	3.80
Dax	4904.35	-122,87	-2,44	6217,83	3833.71	1.75
5&P 500	1228-20	-15.43	-1,24	1283,64	923.32	1.29
Nasdaq	2348.97	-55.75	-2.32	2533.44	1357.09	0.29
Toronto 300	6495,50	-87.37	-1.33	_ 7837.70	5320.90	1.63
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Belgium Bel20	3385.19	-60.98	-1.77	3713.21	2613,32	2.10
Amsterdam Exch	518.06	-10.18	-1.93	600.65	366.58	1,90
France CAC 40	4038.49	-115.53	-2.78	4404.94	2881,21	2.00
Milan MIB30	32336.00	-992.00	-2,98	39170.00	24175.00	1.26
Madrid Rex 35	9500,00	-148.80	-1,54	10989.80	6869.90	1,96
irish Overall	5)58.43	-43.07	-0,83	5581.70	3732,57	1.55
S Kares Comp	523.38	-22.00	-4.03	651.95	277.37	0.07
Australia ASX	2890.70	9.30	-0.32	2948.70	2386.70	3.18

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omberg.com/uk	SOURCE: BLOOM
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į	Canada (\$)	2.3827	Norway (kroner)	12.
ı	Cyprus (pounds)	0.8138	Portugal (escudos)	260.
i	Denmark (kroner)	10 52	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.97
	ifirk-nd (markka)	8.3898	Singapore (5)	2 63
	France (francs)	9.2239	South Africa (rands)	9.47
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į	Greece (drachma)	454.58	Sweden (kronor)	12.
i	Hong Kong (5)	12.32	Switzerland (francs)	2.26
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ĺ	Indian (rupees)	62.56	Turkey (lirasi)	5375
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BA records £75m loss as price war takes its toll

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday By MICHAEL HARRISON reported its first loss in four years as the savage price war in the long-haul market and a decline in business passengers took their toll.

In the three months to the capacity and lower fares. end of December BA recorded a loss of £75m - the first time cutting drive, BA intends to it has failed to make a profit in the quarter since before privatisation in 1987.

BA's chief executive Bob Ayling, aiready under fire because of the airline's plunging
Share price, blamed the loss on situation was not likely to im-

prune back its network of 80 short-haul European routes this autumn. It also expects to identify a further £250m of efficiency gains by next year.

As part of a renewed cost-

The airline warned that the

Business Editor

News Analysis: Chief executive is in upbeat mood, despite big losses

Ayling banks on revamped fleet to fly out of trouble

FOR SOMEONE who has presided over a halving in the summer and whose job security is therefore the subject of almost constant speculation, Bob Ayling was in a remarkably relaxed mood yesterday.

The chief executive of British Airways has plenty of enemies both inside and outside the airline who would like to see

employ his talents elsewhere. But Mr Ayling, 52, takes it all in good spirit. "I'm not a candidate for the manager of the England football team or any other job you care to mention depressed, he is bubbling with confidence. That might seem an have been." odd state of mind to be in given the state of the business. BA's shares have underperformed the market by 50 per cent since he took over as chief executive three years ago and the world's favourite airline has just reported its first third-quarter loss since its nationalised industry days.

But after weathering some severe turbulence, Mr Ayling thinks BA is about to break through the cloud cover. BA has so that it will increase seating by less than 2 per cent this year. The Business Efficiency Programme is running £100m

ahead of schedule and Mr Ayling predicts BA will easily achieve its target of £1bn in Furthermore, it has recon- only ever been marginally prof- it wants a high-yielding, fre- BA to cement its all figured its fleet to concentrate itable but were used for feeder quent service long haul sirline American Airlines.

By Michael Harrison

on the more lucrative end of the long-haul market. Turn up at Heathrow for a transatlantic flight and the chances are you will be flying, not in a 747 but one of BA's new Boeing 777s, which have fewer seats for economy passengers and more for business and first-class.

"This means that we are now less dependent on transfer fares are not enough to pay for the cost of the aircraft," says Mr Ayling. "They were also clogging up Heathrow which is one for that matter," he says. What's of the reasons our baggage more, far from being handling performance last year was not as good as it should

Take for example an econ-

elling to New York. He has at least half a dozen different ways of getting there - via Paris, Madrid, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Milan or Brussels on six different carriers. That gives the customer the whip hand and forces the airlines to offer very competitive fares. Now these passengers will politely be asked to go elsewhere. At present 60 per cent cut back on capacity ferociously of BA's passengers are point-topoint and 40 per cent are transfer. The aim is to get that ratio up to 70:30 - the exact mirror

KLM and Lufthansa Likewise, BA is preparing to slim down its network of 80 efficiency savings by 2000-2001. European routes - which have

ever, prompting analysts to stick with forecasts that BA's full-year profits would fall by more than a half from £580m in turn and increased competition which had resulted in excess 1997-98 to around £230m.

Chris Avery of Paribas has raised his forecast of fourthquarter losses from £37m to £80m, which would leave BA with a second-half loss of

Despite the harsh trading conditions, Mr Ayling said investors could look beyond the

He said BA would achieve savings this year of 6600m under its business efficiency plan - £100m ahead of target while unit costs were down by 11 per cent on the previous year.

BA has also changed the makeup of its aircraft fleet to allow it to concentrate on more profitable sections of the market. Nearly half its fleet of longhaul aircraft are Boeing 777s, which have fewer seats for

Yields - the amount that BA earns for each mile a passen-

ger flys - fell by 11 per cent in the final three months of last year because of fare discounting and a fall in the number of passengers flying business

In December, business class traffic was down by nearly 3 per cent although it recovered partially in January when the de-

cline was just over 1 per cent. Despite an increase in staffing levels of 3,500, taking the BA workforce to 64,600, the wages bill actually fell by 7 per cent in the third quarter BA

was also helped by a 15 per cefall in fuel charges.

The £75m loss compared with an £80m profit in the previous year and included a one-off accounting charge of £117m to cover the cost of revaluing some yen denomi nated aircraft leases

Without this, BA said it would have recorded a profit of £42m. But analysts said the figures had been flattered by a 259m credit because BA would not be paying out such a large.



British Airways tail fins, old and new at Heathrow airport. Despite losses of £75m, announced yesterday, the airline's chief executive, Bob Ayling said investors could look to the future with confidence Peter Macdiarmid

	LEG ROOM (Inches)	SEAT RECLIME (from upright)	SEAT WIDTH (inches)	PERSONAL TV/VIDEO	LAPTOP/ FAX	MALEAGE BONUS
British Airways	50.0	50°	19.75	Yes	No	Yes
Canadian Airlines	50.0	14.0 Inches	22.0	Yes	No	Yes
Cathay Padfic	50.0	12.0 inches	20.0	Yes	Yes	Yes
Continental	55.0	62°	20.0	Yes	No	Yes
Delta Airlines	50.0	11.0 inches	18.0	. Yes	Yes	Yes
apan Airlines	50.0	57°	20.5	Yes	No -	Yes
SILM .	47.0	N/A	19.0	Yes	. No	No ···
pfhansa	48.0	· 35°	19.5-22.0	Yes	Yes	No
Dantas .	50.0	11.0 inches	19.5	Yes	No ·	. Yes
wiss Air	- 40.0	40° .	20.0	Planned.	Yes	Yes
United Airlines	48.0-50.0	12.0 inches	20.2	Planned	Yes	Yes .
Virgin Atlantic	55.0	13.0 Inches	` 21.0	Yes	Yes	Vés

traffic. There will be the same number of flights but they will be concentrated on fewer more profitable business routes.

So is Mr Ayling turning BA into a two-tier airline, with one service for businessmen paying image of competitors such as top dollar and another for backpackers, modelled on Go, its nofrills low-cost carrier?

"BA is heading the way the market takes us," he replies. "If

aimed at business passengers that is what we will offer. If it wants a low-cost, short-haul airline based at Stansted, that's what we will do as well."

Unfortunately, the transformation Mr Ayling has wrought at BA has been overshadowed by the savage downturn in the market, which was made worse by last year's Far East economic crisis and the failure of BA to cement its alliance with

But Mr Ayling takes heart even from this. Had it not been for the efficiency programme then BA would be losing hundreds of millions of pounds by now, he argues. The cost cutting has not been without pain and led BA into a damaging strike with cabin crew two summers ago. But BA's competitors have

get their costs and their capacity down. Despite the abysmal share

yet to grasp the same nettle and

price performance, there are not many in the City who reckon anyone could have done a better job than Mr Ayling, so why eject the pilot now. "The airline industry is weak and getting weaker but BA was the first to realise that and react," says Chris Avery, aviation analyst at Paribas. "First into the recession means BA will probably be the first out."

It's almost enough to make the chief executive laugh.

£2bn mobiles auction delayed for up to a year

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday auction would not now take announced that the auction of third-generation mobile telephone licences, expected to chequer, has been delayed by up to a year, writes Michael

The original intention had been to award the licences this spring but the Industry Minister Michael Wills told the

place until the second half of

the financial year 1999-2000. Mr Wills also indicated that raise up to £2bn for the Ex- it was the Government's intention to offer five licences, including a larger one that would be reserved for a new entrant into the mobile market.

It is expected that bidders to make a deposit of at least

timates of the cost of building encing, fax, e-mail and even a new mobile network of £1.5bn broadcasting via mobile net-

The new Universal Mobile or UMTS networks will operate at a higher frequency than existing services, offering in-

creased capacity and speed. This will enable operators to for the new licences will have provide services such as Internet access, on-line banking Commons last night that the £50m. That compares with es- and shopping, video confer-

In order to encourage competition against existing operators - Vodafone, Celinet, Orange and One2One - Wills said any new entrant would be allowed to "roam" onto existing second generation networks.

This would enable a new entrant to offer a nationwide ser-

new entrant's network would was allowed to roam.

The delay, which has been the existing operators." caused largely by ministerial cised for playing into the hands of incumbent operators.

vice before their own network Dawes, a reseller of mobile and

is fully built out. It has still to fixed Internet capacity with be decided how much of the one million subscribers, said: "Every three month delay need to be completed before it means a few hundred thousand more customers signed up by

BT, which owns 60 per cent changes at the Department of of Cellnet, was given clear-Trade and Industry, was criti-ance two weeks ago to bid for one of the new licences in its own right, enabling it to offer Sean Gardner of Martin a combined fixed and mobile

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS fell for the fifth trading day running. Footsie, at one time up 33.2 points, lost 55 to 5,779.9. Mid cap shares were also weak but the small caps, helped by takeover action, managed to record modest headway. Trading was heavy with turnover topping the 1 billion mark

Recent high flyers were in the doldrums with, for example, Colt Telecom off 36.5p to 1,037p. But long depressed mining shares remained in demand with Billiton up 4.5p to 130.5p and Lourho. helped by talk of corporate activity, 35p to 390p. Derek Pain, page 21 also making investors nervous.

NEW YORK

US STOCKS had recovered some of their initial losses by midafternoon, but the Dow Jones Industrial Average was still over 100 points lower at 9,190, wiping out most of the gains since the start of the year. Technology stocks fared worse and Nasdaq was down 54 points at 2,350. Investors remain worried about valuations and claims that the market is overbought. The forthcoming evidence by Alan Greenspan the chairman of the Fed to Congress on Thursday is

TOKYO

STOCKS LOST modest ground as investors aimed to lock in recent profits before the fiscal yearend. traders said, with the benchmark Nikkei 225 index closing down 89.8 points at 13,902.7.

Analysts said that despite a recent recovery in government bond prices and the dollar, investors were cautious about these markets' future. The banking subindex retreated, after warnings that some banks may be ineligible for public funds, while Daiwa Bank ended flat after it denied reports that it was the next target for nationalisation.

PARIS

THE CAC-40 INDEX of French blue chip stocks closed 115.5 down at 4,038.49, a drop of 2.78 per cent. Cyclical stocks again outperformed the market led by

Alstom, which rose 5.45 per cent after a buy recommendation from Société Générale. Pechiney, the aluminium producer, rose 3.13 per cent and Metaleurop advanced 6.03 per cent, but Schneider fell 7.03 per cent on profit-taking after recent rises. France Telecom lost ground and banks continued to slip, led by Société Générale, BNP and Paribas.

FRANKFURT

SHARES IN GERMANY fell by almost 4 per cent yesterday. reflecting growing concern over possible rises in US interest rates which more than offset news of a 50,000 fall in German

unemployment. A rebound in the euro against the dollar and industrial protests by metal workers also undermined shares in export-based companies. MAN fell 6.52 per cent to 243 euros and Daimler Chrysler shed 4.01 per cent to 82.80 euros.

The DAX index of electronically traded stocks fell 201.77 to 4,850.67.

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Sunderland absentees rock the boat

RARELY has the usually sleepy world of regional brewing been so filled with the sound of gun shot. With the dust only just beginning to settle on the vitriolic two-way bid battle between Wolverhampton & Dudley and Marston, Thompson & Evershed, we now have a humdinger of a row at the Sunderland brewer, Vaux Group, which without ongoing chairman, chief executive or finance director, is now left rudderless, defenceless and

wide open to a breakup bid. Underlying this sudden burst of activity is a belated recognition of value wallowing in these traditional backwaters of British business, and an increased determination among shareholders to do something about realising it.

It was apparently without a trace of irony that Sir Paul Nicholson, the outgoing chairman, told analysts at his last results briefing that he hoped his successor would be as focused on shareholder value as he had been for the past 27 years. Shareholders, which include the enfant terrible of fund management, Phillips & Drew, would be forgiven for hoping otherwise, for Vaux shares have underperformed the rest of the stock market by a half dur-



OUTLOOK

ing that period. Even Sir Paul had begun to feel the winds of change, however, and reluctantly he had agreed to a partial breakup of the group through the sale of its two eweries and some pubs. This was a plan that threatened to severe his family's connection with brewing, which goes back generations, so it must have been a relief when his brother, Frank, popped up as the favoured bidder for these interests and the board granted him exclusive

negotiating rights. Unfortunately the new chief executive, Martin Grant, and his finance director, Neil Gossage, didn't agree. They think that to close the breweries, which incidentally would

have made Sir Paul's name mud in Sunderland, sell off the surplus assets and sign a new discounted beer supply deal with a national brewer, would yield more value. What's more they went behind the backs of the rest of the board in expressing their misgivings and outlining their alternative to major

Their sackings raise two issues. First, is it ever justified for a chief executive to break ranks and ask shareholders to vote against the board's favoured strategy? Plainly it is when the board is doing something which is not regarded as in the best interests of investors in general. So the second question is whether the sale of these assets to the chairman's brother, given the alternatives. amounts to a validation of Mr Grant's disloyalty.

In usual circumstances, these questions would demand a thorough airing. As it is, the company has left itself so exposed to a hostile breakup bid, that we may not need to know the answers. The price being paid by Ladbroke for Stakis is leading to a general reappraisal of the value of these hotel and pub businesses. and it may well be that analysts are right in pencilling in a breakup

value for Vaux of 350p a share and

Knotted ties

ROY BISHKO, the perennially upbeat South African who runs Tie Rack, hates it when people call his creation a niche retailer. This, he claims is an outrageous slur on his company, associating it with 1980s implosions like Sock Shop and Knickerbox. Instead he claims Tie Rack is "a specialist retailer" which happens to focus on "neckwear" and other associated

This is an interesting distinction. But even if he is right, Tie Rack has certainly established something of a niche for itself of late - that of issuing profit warnings. And though the company does not exactly have the field to itself at the moment, it is looking remarkable accomplished at it, having issued four in a year.

The shares rose a bit yesterday on the return of Nigel McGinley to the chief executive's chair, but the bald fact is that Tie Rack has lost 90 per cent of its value in the last two years. This is a destruction of shareholder value on a truly Olympian

What has gone wrong has been well-chronicled. The company was hit by the strong pound and in particular the slump in Asian economies. Its overweight position in airports suffered with the collapse of business class travel. There were also buying mistakes, which left

the group with unwanted stock.

Today the company has a market

value of just £15m, even though the business contains £11m of cash. This must be tempting to financial buyers, though the 37 per cent stake held by Vadep, an obscure Swiss investment trust, is obviously a deterrent. The other option is for Mr Bishko to take Tie Rack private himself. But if he tried that at current prices, the City would string him up probably by using one of his own brightly coloured pieces of specialist neckwear.

Sterling poser

THE STABILITY of the pound against the euro and before that, its anchor currency, the Deutsche Mark, over the past six months has been remarkable, given that sterling has become a small boat tossed on tanker currencies. Sadly, this stability has come a bit too early and at rather too high a level.

Since 1 January, sterling has traded in the 68p-70p to the euro range, when it needs to be closer to 73p-74p for the comfort of British industry. Moreover, this much-needed depreciation needs to happen early if the pound is to enjoy a couple of years of stability ahead of

Britain joining the euro. Given the fact that UK interest rates have fallen much faster than anybody thought likely six months ago, reflecting the slowdown in the economy, the pound-euro exchange rate might have been expected to weaken. True, euroland interest rates have fallen more than expected too, but its economy will probably still outpace the UK this

This puzzle has to be seen in the context of the bigger question about euro-dollar-yen exchange rates. The dollar has stayed surprisingly weak against the yen when the US economy is pounding away. While the trade gap might point to an eventual and possibly dramatic decline in the dollar-yen rate, short-term considerations all seem to point the other way. With Japan still deep in

recession, its currency surely must decline before it climbs.

At the same time, the dollar has fared better against the curo than seemed likely ahead of the launch of the new currency, when it was thought there would be a general switching out of dollars as the euro establishes rival reserve currency status. This switching effect has

obviously been postponed. What does this mean for the pound, bobbing around in the wake of these big moves? There are two possible arguments for expecting or hoping sterling will weaken. It could fall against the euro for fundamentai reasons - slower UK growth and lower interest rates - or, because of the traditional sterling-dollar link, it might weaken against the euro if the dollar does.

Alternatively, sterling might turn out to have cast off from the US currency just a bit too early. With its line now attached to the curo instead, it would in these circumstances appreciate further, forcing the Government to negotiate entry into the single currency at a rate that is much too uncomfortable for UK industry. The historical precedent is not encouraging, so fingers crossed

Vaux sacks two directors in boardroom split

VAUX, the Sunderland brewers, yesterday sacked the chief executive Martin Grant and finance director Neal Gossage after a dramatic boardroom split over the duties of directors and the future of the company and and Sheffield.

The departure of the two directors after they lost the confidence of the board has put Vaux into takeover play. City sources said. It is understood that they opposed the majority decision last month to give a management buy-out team led by Frank Nicholson, a brother of the chairman Sir Paul Nicholson, a fourweek exclusivity period to mount a £70m bid to buy the breweries

Subsequently they are said to have broken the principle of boardroom unity and approached PDFM and Mercury Asset Management, which beween them control 30 per cent of the shares. They appear to have lobbied for an alternative plan to close the breweries and the depot, with the loss of 600 s, bulldoze the buildings and Eil the sites for redevelopment. At the same time the loan

book used to finance the sale of

By CLIFFORD GERMAN

beer to the tied houses - the contract to supply beer to the hotels and the remaining pubs-would be sold to one of the major brewers and the proceeds reinvested in the hotels or returned to shareholders. Neither Mr Grant nor Mr

Gossage was available for comment. Mr Grant joined Vaux as chief executive from Allied Domecq last June on a salary of just under £200,000. Mr Gossage joined in 1995 and earned £112,000 last year Both are on two-year contracts, and the question of any compensation is in the hands of legal advisers. The formal decision to exit and 350 under-performing pubs brewing and concentrate on the 175 managed houses and the bet-

ter half of the tenanted pub estate was taken last September by a committee of non-executive directors. It was accepted by the board and the chairman. Yesterday's departures leave the boardroom plans on course. If the buy-out team can put an

acceptable package to the board by 1 March, the proposals will go to an egm for approval.

The shares shed 2p to close at 273.5p yesterday.



Servisair director may trump hostile Amey bid

took a fresh twist yesterday after it emerged that Stephen Walls, one of the airport services company's directors, was considering trumping the £81.5m hostile offer from out-

sourcing group Amey.

News of a possible bid from

THE BID battle for Servisair By Francesco Guerrera

Mr Walls, a high-profile City figure, came as Servisair rejected Amey's offer as "wholly inadequate".

Mr Walls, a former chairman of the troubled food producer Albert Fisher and of

erstood to have received the backing of a venture capital group to mount a bid for Servisair, Europe's largest ground

handling company. News of an interest from Mr Walls, who has been a Servisair non-executive di-

Associate City Editor

sales and difficult trading conditions in its major markets.

After merchandising problems last year the stores were left

with an excess of unwanted

However, the group was up-

With Tie Rack's market value only standing at £15m

there have been rumours that

Mr Bishko might seek to take

the business private. "I have no such plans," he said. "We are

just concentrating on running the business. We've got a good

young team here and Nigel

coming back means he will help bring it all together. I am

beat about prospects saying it

had cleared its overstocked position and had net cash of £11m.

stock, which had to be offloaded

paper group Wiggins, is un- rector since 1994, sparked an tion not available to other bidangry reaction from the Amey chief executive, Brian Sta-

> He said that Mr Walls' involvement in the takeover battle was a matter for the Takeover Panel as he had ac-

cess to confidential informa-

ders. Mr Staples added that it would write to Servisair, asking it to clarify Mr Walls' po-

Servisair said that Mr Walls had not participated in any board decisions relating to

Holocaust threat to **Deutsche** takeover

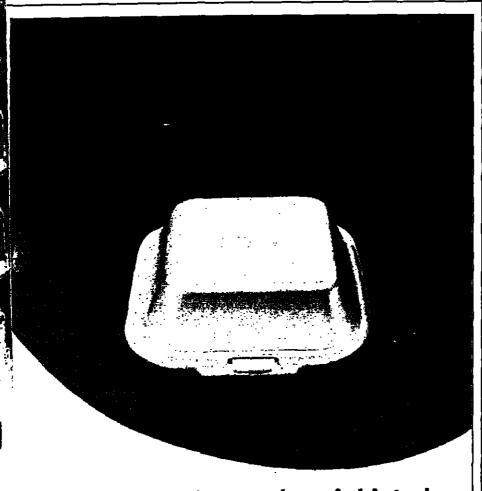
THE NEW York City comptroller, Alan Hevesi, last night stepped up pressure on Germany's Deutsche Bank over the Holocaust issue, with a warning that he is not ready to drop his threat to block its \$10bn takeover of Bankers Trust,

writes Andrew Garfield. Mr Hevesi, who is leading a group of state and local government finance officers who are opposed to the deal, said that he would not give the takeover his support until he had seen a written agreement settling all Holocaust-related claims against the bank.

He added that he was ordering officials involved in negotiations with the bank to report back within 30 days.

Jewish leaders are believed to be seeking at least \$2bn from Deutsche Bank after rejecting an earlier offer of a \$1.3bn umbrella fund which would settle claims against both Deutsche and other German companies.

Mr Hevesi has no formal powers to block the deal. However, his threat to bovcott Swiss banks was instrumental in securing last year's \$1.25bn Holocaust settlement with UBS and Credit Suisse.



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made possible by the unique 1440dpi EPSON Micro Piezo Crystal Printhead Having created the world's smallest dot, EPSON have just made it even smaller. Our Ultra MicroDot is less than half the width of

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Tie Rack stock glut prompts fourth warning

TIE RACK, the high street re- BY NIGEL COPE tailer, issued its fourth profits warning in little more than a year yesterday when it said pre-exceptional losses for its full financial year would be around 575m. Brokers had been expecting losses of £4m.

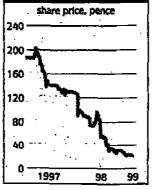
However, the shares rose 15 per cent to 22.5p after Tie at lower margins. Rack said Nigel McGinley was returning as chief executive with immediate effect. Mr McGinley stepped down from the top job in October 1997 and has since been serving as a non-executive director.

His return follows a boardroom clear out which has seen the two joint managing directors leave last year. "Tve got my chief executive back and I'm very pleased," said Roy Bishko, Tie Rack's chairman who founded the business in 1981. Tie Rack blamed the latest

warning on poor second-half TIE RACK

very excited."

154 in the UK.



Mr Bishko said he would be "taking some of the clutter" out of Tie Rack's stores, which were crammed with too much stock. It is also adding more woven ties to complement its existing printed ranges. Management has been strengthened in key areas including buying, merchandis-

ing and marketing and the benefits of these changes will begin to be seen in the coming financial year, Mr Bishko said. Tie Rack has been closing underperforing stores. It now has 431 outlets worldwide, with

gives you the world's finest quality.

the crisp, razor sharp detail.

the average human hair and invisible to the naked eye. It's these tiny dots that give you

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IN BRIEF

Nursing homes group slides 10% SHARËS IN Westminster

Healthcare, the nursing

to 177.5p vesterday as it

in profits caused by the

abroad. It is aiming to

diversity into forensic

psychiatry, housing

homes group, fell 10 per cent

revealed a 21 per cent slump

national shortage of nurses.

The group was forced to hire

agency staff and recruit from

management and diagnostic

BRITAIN'S big clearing banks

are looking at merger deals

with continental European

partners because they fear

being sidelined by a wave of

financial sector mergers this

year According to research

bank, the value of European

financial sector mergers

soared by 84 per cent to

\$225bn last year.

by JP Morgan, the investment

Merger frenzy

Smithkline in radical shake-up

THE DRUGS to Ribena giant By Francesco Guerrera SmithKline Beecham yesterday stunned the City with radical plans to cut its workforce by more than a quarter, to focus on its core pharmaceuticals and healthcare businesses.

The company announced the disposal of two underperforming US businesses for over \$2bn and the closure or sale of Mr Leschly said. several of its manufacturing plants. The sweeping restructuring will see the departure of around 15,000 of SB's 58,000 employees over the next four years. The measures will land SB with an exceptional charge of over £1bn but the company said they would help to reduce costs and boost profits in the long term.

SB used the announcement to rush out its 1998 results. The figures, released a week earlier than expected, showed a 10 per cent rise in underlying profits to £1.77bn on sales up 7 per cent to £8.3bn

The chief executive, Jan Leschly, denied suggestions that the shake-up could rekindle a £120bn mega-merger with SB's UK arch-rival Glaxo Wellcome. Talks between the two companies foundered last year

after a clash of personalities between Mr Leschly and the Glazo chairman Sir Richard Sykes. "This has nothing to do with the previous discussions we'll be an independent company now, a stronger company,"

He said SB's leaner structure would help to boost earnings by around 13 per cent this year and to produce "mid to high teens growth in 2000 and 2001". Mr Leschly said the restructuring would free up resources for pharmaceutical products such as the forthcoming blockbuster

expected sales of over \$1bn. Money will also be invested in SB's consumer products, which include Ribena, Lucozade and Aquafresh. SB shares finished 33p higher at 831.5p as dealers welcomed the plans and refused to believe Mr Les-

Avandia, a diabetes drug with

chly's denial of merger talks. SB declined to specify which of its manufacturing plants would close but a spokesman said that there would be few redundancies among UK-based

staff. SB employs around 4,000 people at factories at Irvine in Scotland and Crawley and Worthing, both in Sussex. The scale-down in manufacturing and a renegotiation of deals with suppliers will lead to cost. we had on a merger. We think savings of £200m a year from 2002. Before then, SB will take a £750m restructuring charge, with £90m already included in this year's accounts.

In a marked shift from the expansionist strategy of the past few years. SB also announced the disposal of two US businesses employing 15,000 people. Clinical Laboratories, a US-based clinical trials unit, was sold to rival Quest Diagnostics for \$1bn in cash - well below the \$2.3bn paid by SB to acquire the business - and a 29.5 per cent stake in the enlarged group.

DPS, an agency which manages health benefits for 23 million Americans, went to US rival Express Scripts for \$700m in cash and a \$300m tax benefit. SB said it took a £629m provision for the loss on the DPS operations. The proceeds will go to cutting SB's debt, with gearing set to fall to around 15 per cent from 52 per cent in 1998.



SmithKline Beecham's chief executive Jan Leschly announcing the slimming-down yesterday

Abbot talks fail TALKS BETWEEN Abbott, the oil services group, and its Oslo-based opposite number ProSale have been discontinued after the two sides failed to agree terms. Abbott shares, which fell sharply when the company announced it had approached ProSafe proposing a merger

rose 30p to 175p yesterday Amvescap jump

on equal terms last month,

AMVESCAP, the £3.6bn fund manager which owns Invesco, yesterday unveiled a 30 per cent jump in pre-tax profits. to £231m, following the acquisition last May of rival fund manager GT Global.

US productivity

Shares of both Yahoo! and THE PRODUCTIVITY of US workers surged in the final quarter at the fastest rate for nearly three years, in the latest signal of the strength of the US economy. Output per the potential for cross-promoworker hour climbed 3.7 per cent outside the farm sector, Internet and television. USA the highest increase since the start of 1996.

German jobless

UNEMPLOYMENT in Germany, adjusted for seasonal variations, fell unexpectedly in January: Although the headline jobless total rose by 4.455, the adjusted total fell 59,000 to just under 4.1 million.

Siemens to develop Net phone TV/Web merger creates

SIEMENS, THE German elec- By PETER THAL LARSEN tronics giant, is close to a deal with a major software group that would allow it to join the race to supply mobile phones capable of Internet access.

The company is in talks with US firms Microsoft and Sun as well as Symbian, the joint venture involving Psion, the handheld computer maker, about using their software in mobile Internet terminals. An announcement is expected within

76.602m (81.030m) 45.454m(30.919m) 704.2m (902.3m) 2.140b(2.156b) 22.34m(18.325m)

the next few months. Discussions are thought to include the possibility of Siemens joining Symbian, whose shareholders include Motorola, Nokia and Ericsson, the world's leading mobile phone supplier.

A joint venture with Sun, which is keen to promote its Java software as an operating system, is also a possibility.

COMPANY RESULTS

3.9m (4 3ra) 4.078m (-0.879m) 84.9m (83.5m) -75m (80m) 87.1m (77 4m) 0.441m (0.284m) 0.832m (-1 642m) 0.114m (0.103m) -0.231m (-0.115m)

presence," Dr Jung said. How-The news emerged as Siemens, launched a new inforever, he insisted that the commation and communications pany would not be pushed into division in an attempt to make making large acquisitions. up the ground it has lost on its In an echo of recent warncompetitors in the exploding ings made by Microsoft chairmarkets for hi-tech products. man Bill Gates and Alan

Volker Jung, the Siemens director in charge of the division, said the company was poised to unveil a series of partnerships and joint ventures. "We are planning partnerships to achieve global

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of money for bubbles," he said. "If I had paid \$20bn for a company with \$1.5bn of sales I would not have survived at Siemens," he added, referring to the recent acquisition of Ascent Communications, the network equipment firm by Lucent, the US telecommunications equipment giant.

Siemens' move into mobile terminals follows an alliance between Microsoft and British Telecom, announced on Monday, to trial Microsoft's Windows CE operating system on mobile phones.

multi-media monolith

THE LANDSCAPE of the World BY DAVID USBORNE Wide Web mutated again yesterday as USA Networks, the cable television empire headed by former Fox TV chief execu-Greenspan, the chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Mr tive and Hollywood power, Jung said hi-tech stocks were Barry Diller, announced that it overvalued. "We are not willing is merging with Lycos, the popto pay an unbelievable amount ular Internet portal site.

The merger could be a new milestone in the brief and burning-hot history of cyber-commerce, because of the potent combination that it will bring between an important Internet player and the entertainment industry. Combined, USA Networks and Lycos have rev-

enues of more than \$1.5bn. The new company, to be called USA/Lycos Interactive Networks, fuses one of the most successful gateway sites on the Internet with the varied interests controlled by Mr Diller, including the successful in New York

Home Shopping Network, USA also has a controlling interest in Ticketmaster.

"This places all the necessary ingredients for electronic information and commerce into one centrally and aggressively managed enterprise," Mr Diller said yesterday. "There is no excuse now for us not to be a dominant player as the world continues its transition towards interactive systems."

The deal ends weeks of speculation about the future of Lycos, which is based in Massachusetts, far away from California's Silicon Valley. Founded in 1995, it has never managed to generate a profit and was reported to have entered talks with various potential partners including NBC and the German

BUSINESS Œ

channels will woo viewers to the Lycos site, while Lycos users will be encouraged to tune into

USA programming. Together, the two companies will reach about 30 million people. "This creates a major electronic commerce player with significant inroads into the local market," commented Paul

Noglows of Hambrecht & Quist.

media firm Bertelsmann.

tain its independence.

ering slightly.

It means that Yahoo! will

stand as the last of the four

main Internet portal sites to re-

Lycos fell in morning trading

yesterday in New York, with

Lycos falling \$31.25, nearly 25

per cent, to \$96 before recov

Driving the Lycos deal was

tion between the mediums of

I this for just The Time 400-2c Family PC Our promise package comes complete to you with powerful 400MHz PC, printer, scanner, office software suite and much more for iust £799+VAT. Buy the EXEC to cut out the middleman and model now and cut the cost of computers pay nothing until the year 2000, with our Bysel yidedong ew - sus tisely of No Deposit, Interest Free Option! or pay only £29.64 per rithin 15 minutes drive of your home nonth* on our Low APR Plan.

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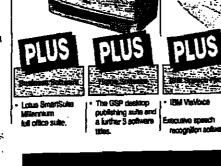
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service. Offer available at listed hotels to 28th February 1999. All reservations subject to availability with a lighted number of room wailable at these promotional rates. Bookings to be made via Central Reservations prior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special proxinction. "50% discount ents savings against rack rate. Posthouse hotels reserves the right to Suspend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any confirmed or quaranteed bookings cancelled after 2pm on day o nrivel will be liable to a non-arrival charge of the first right's terms. All unconfirmed bookings will be released at 2pm on day of arrival.



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SHARE PRICE DATA

source: Bloomberg

8 4 3 3 9 •

BOC hit

by 22%

slide in

turnover

BY CLIFFORD GERMAN

TRADING CONDITIONS for

BOC remain tough in the first

quarter of the current financial

year. Turnover was down 22 per

cent and profit before tax fell

Including joint ventures and

associates, and excluding

businesses that have been sold.

turnover at the industrial gases

group was still down 8 per

cent and operating profit down

The long term restructuring

and cost-saving programme that hammered last year's

profits is on track to start

contributing 250m to profit in

the current year and £120m a

year in due course, the chief ex-

ecutive Danny Rosencrantz

Margins in the industrial

gases division remain steady in

spite of a drop in demand from

the steel industry, and its

operating profit was down just

said yesterday.

10 per cent at £104.4m.

9 per cent to £93.5m.

im worth with

Summertime blues return to depress Footsie

BLUE CHIPS are beginning to look anxious and tired. Footsie has fallen 233.1 points in the past five trading sessions, its longest losing run since last summer

The latest decline shaved 55 points from the index, leaving it at 5,779.9 – its lowest since just before Christmas. Only last week it was ricting above 6,000.

The sudden retreat has occurred against a background of heavy trading with share turnover often topping 1 billion.

New York, lower during London hours, has helped undermine confidence, as has a nagging fear that last week's surprise half-a-point base rate cut indicated a degree of panic at the Monetary Policy Committee meeting and the nation's economic prospects were, therefore, rather worse than some experts anticipated.

44: 41: 12 g

Many of the hitherto high flyers have suffered in the February fall. Colt Telecom lost a further 36.5p to 1,037p, against 1,341.5p earlier this year, and Orange fell 34p to 817p.

The newly-created engineering group BTR Siebe led yesterday's Footsie retreat,

SHARES OF money and securities broker Trio Holdings rose 0.5p to 7.25p, its highest since

After three years of losses, totalling £33m, the company recorded a £2.2m profit last year which included a £1.1m VAT repayment.

Capitalised at only £6m Trio has nearly £4m cash and is clearing the way to make dividend payments. Six years ago, when profits of around £5m were achieved, the shares touched 63p.

losing 15.75p to 228.5p.

Once again there was bubbling activity in the oil sector. BG, with Salomon Smith Barney advocating a 415p fair value, fell 6p to 356p with stories continuing to flow that it was one of the predators circling Lasmo, off 2.5p to 116p. ENI of Italy and Repsol of Spain are the other names in the frame. Enterprise Oil, talking merger with Lasmo, rose 4p to 238.5p.

Securicor, at one time up 22p, closed 7.5p higher at 588.5p. Goldman Sachs adopted an upbeat stance with a 685p target price. But Henderson Crosthwaite was more cautious, suggesting a target range of 570p to 620p.

Henderson's Chris Godsmark believes BT will buy Securicor's 40 per cent Cellnet stake this year but suggests the telecom giant will not pay some of the fancy prices bandied

around. He puts forward £2.8bn. BT was off 27p at 908p with its free Internet service failing to log on investors. It also had to contend with CSFB reducing its share target to 1,075p from 1,150p and a Lehman Brothers' suggestion that tomorrow's third-quarter figures will produce "creeping downgrades".

The major mining groups made further progress as the stock market swing round to the view they were over-sold and perhaps the metals tide had

MARKET REPORT



DEREK

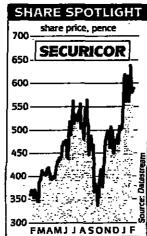
RioTinto, at one time up 25p settled for a 9p gain at 799p. Billiton, the South African Footsie constituent, firmed 4.5p to 130.5p after Parihas suggested a long-term valuation of 200p. It said: "There is substantially greater upside than RioTinto."

Lonrho jumped 35p to 390p, helped by talk of corporate action, and Reunion Mining rose 23.5p to 75.5p after reporting that it was examining various options about financing its Namibia zinc project.

Mid cap shares again failed to build on their recent progress with the index off 27.9 at 5,177.5. Still, the small cap index remained firm, up 4.9 to 2.220.

Takeover interest among the tiddlers was probably responsible. Stories swirled of corporate action at David S Smith, the packaging group, prompting a 9p gain to 124p in busy trading.

And Booker, the hard-



pressed cash-and-carry chain that former Argos man Stuart Rose is trying to revitalise, improved 9.5p to 66p on stories of an imminent strike.

Last year Budgens and Somerfield looked at the struggling group but did not like what they found and walked away. Now, one story is that Tesco could be interested. Another name in the frame is Wal-Mart, the huge US retailer which has let it be known it intends to expand into Europe. There is also talk of a German strike.

Media group Primesight rose 31p to 316p as Scottish Media emerged with a 320p cash offer. Oil services group Abbot rose 31p to 176p after its merger talks with ProSafe, a Norwegian group, collapsed. A deal would have created a £500m oil services group. There have been market rumours that the two sides were having difficulty stitching together a deal and Abbot's shares have been volatile.

Pycraft & Arnold, the loss SEAQ VOLUME: 1.06bn adjuster, slipped 3p to 65.5p as SEAQ TRADES: 71,010

ers International declared itself the possible bidder. Tetra, a computer group, was little changed at 277.5p after Lynx, off 6p at 209p, said it had made

the approach. Servisair, the aircraft support group, rose 4p to 218.5p. It continues to reject the 200p offer from Amey, the construction group. Indeed, it said director Stephen Walls, ex-Plessey, was attempting to

mastermind a counter offer. Crown Eyeglass, up 15p to 92.5p, admitted a management buy out was under considera-

Tobacco shares were the day's best performers, lit up by the High Court success of Gal-laber and Imperial Tobacco. Gallaher, off on Monday on the loss of its Royal Warrant, was puffed 16.5p higher at 431p. Imps rose 24p to 7115p and British American Tobacco 17.50 to 631p.

Marks & Spencer was little changed at 362.5p. BT Alex.Brown remains cautious. It points out that the latest accountancy changes covering the measurement of tangible

SAVE, the hard-pressed independent petrol retailer, formerly called Frost Group, was pumped up 6p to 45p in busy trading as stories swirled that the Kuwaiti-owned garage chain, Q8, planned a takeover offer.

The shares, brushed by bid talk in the past, have come under increasing pressure as competition from the major oil groups hit profits.

Four years ago they touched 269.5p and even last summer traded at 136.50.

assets could knock up to £50m from the retailer's reported profits. With the high street chain engaged in what seems to be a slow recovery, the investment house expects a dividend cut next year suggests the shares could retest its 333.50 low.

MFI, the furniture chain, added 4p to 43p with CSFB suggesting a switch out of Carpetright, little changed at 291.5p. SG Securities' comments helped Harveys Furnishing to achieve a 7p gain to 118.5p.

Utilities remained in demand with investors encouraged by their high dividend yields and general safe haven appearance. Thames Water rose 14p to 1,113p and United Utilities 13.5p to 803p. National Power firmed 8p to 500p and Scottish & Southern, helped by Charterhouse Tilney

support, 7.5p to 615p. Lower interest rates may not be causing universal jubilation but builders are celebrating. Beazer, up 12p to 179.5p, and Barratt Developments, 13p to 258p, led the way. Long depressed properties also firmed on interest rate considerations. MEPC rose 11.25p to 441.25p and British Land 23.5p to 503.5p.

financial services group Fish- GILT INDEX: 115.56 +0.13

INVESTMENT

Reuters chief warns of revenue downturn

giant, yesterday warned that this year's revenues would be hit by the financial turmoil in emerging markets and the rapid consolidation among the world's banks.

The chief executive Peter Job said economic crisis in Asia and Russia had caused a decline in orders for the company's news screens and trading systems in the last quarter of 1998. He added that the fall would

offset some of the price increases planned for 1999 and reduce sales. Mr Job said the gloomy economic environment and the prospect of further banking mergers were also casting a cloud over Reuters' near-term prospects.

He predicted revenue growth in 1999 would be below the 9 per cent rise recorded last year, when Reuters' turnover totalled a record £3.03bn. His comments came as the information group reported the second consecutive drop in yearly profits, with 1998 earnings falling 7 per cent to £580m. The decrease in earnings caused a 33p fall in the shares to 833p, wiping almost £500m for

Reuters' market value. The figures were affected by the strong pound, which wiped some £31m off operating profit, and by a £78m shortfall in inyear's £1.5hn share buyback.

tronics group in which Alan

Sugar controls a 29.9 per cent

stake, bounced back into the

black in the six months to De-

cember helped by a shift away

Although Tesco and other

retailers have been selling Am-

strad televisions and video

recorders for as little as £99,

profits in the half year totalled

£4.1m. compared to a loss of

vear Amstrad admitted that

business with supermarkets is

low margin but said the huge

volumes involved made up for

The launch of set-top boxes

for digital television in October

the relatively low mark-up.

from low margin products.

AMSTRAD, the consumer elec- BY NIGEL COPE

£900,000 in the same period last by the group's in-house design

REUTERS, the information By Francesco Guerrera

However, the numbers were boosted by a £26m gain from the sale of several Internet stocks held by Reuters' in-house inestment fund

Industry experts took Mr Job's bearish words in their stride. They pointed out that the chief executive is famous for his cautious statements and predicted Reuters would weather the adverse market conditions.

Brian Newman at Henderson Crosthwaite said that although demand in most of Asia and Russia was weak, sales in Japan and the US-two of Reuters' key markets - were encouraging. "The bear case was that

screen [sales] would go down,

but at the moment they are incredibly resilient," he said. Looking ahead, 1999 is shaping up as a year of two halves. In the first half, earnings will be depressed by a number of technical factors arising from last year's return of capital to

shareholders and the absence of

currency hedges.

Associate City Editor

number of units sold.

Amstrad has not disclosed the

Amstrad will increasingly

have two strands to its business.

It has the steady, lower growth

consumer products operations

selling traditional technology

Added to this is the more fo-

cused product range developed

team. This includes the contract

with BSkyB and an agreement

with Cable & Wireless to sell a

range of C&W branded phones,

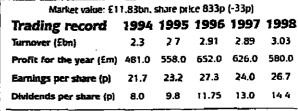
largely for domestic use.

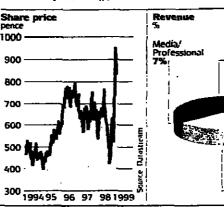
such as TVs and videos.

However, in the second half Reuters should benefit from a radical restructuring of its operations along product, rather than geographical lines. Cost savings should be limited at around £20m a year but the in- decline in US revenues. On the terest income caused by last creased efficiency should boost negative side, the US court case

Amstrad bounces back into black

REUTERS: AT A GLANCE





nium and euro expenditure has arch-rival Bloomberg's systems, also peaked at around £40m in 1998 and is set to fall to around £14m in 1999, freeing up funds for investment in new products.

The expansion of the Instinct. Reuters' Internet trading system, to the fast-growing European bond market should also boost sales and offset some of the operating performance. Millen- on Reuters' alleged hacking of fall further.

They look a hold at these levels.

fuelling rumours that Mr Sugar

would move to take Amstrad pri-

vate. This followed his decision

to increase his stake in Viglen.

the personal computer compa-

ny to 72 per cent. However, Am-

strad shares have recovered to

50p, up 1.75p yesterday, and

Martin Bland, finance director.

said Mr Sugar has "no plans to

On Beeson Gregory's full

year forecast of £6m, the shares

trade on a forward multiple of

less than 10. The house broker

is positive on the shares saying

the upside lies in the new prod-

take the business private".

But the investment decision comes down to the stock's valuation. The shares have had an incredible run since the start of the year. They are now on 26times forward earnings forccasts at about £650-£700m - a 25 per cent premium to the market. but they should be bought if they

could push the shares down.

1 per cent at 294.4m. There are signs that the vacuum technology division which supplies the worldwide semi-conductor industries has turned the corner in spite of a slump in profits to just £1.6m The distribution business

Transactions 29%

produced an operating profit of £7.9m, an improvement of 27 per cent. The adverse impact of the

strong pound is visibly (ading, and should be cut to 26m if rates remain at their current level. But the market did not formed on the product lines' entirely share the company's prospects in the next six months. confidence and the shares fell Indeed, last year Amstrad 67p to 796p. shares plunged as low as 27.5p The first quarter figures

were below most forecasts and significantly below some.

Even the optimists were disappointed at the severity of competition in the United States and the poor returns in vacuum technology and could see no real sign of a return to easier business conditions. Forecasts for the current

year have been downgraded from £415m to around £390m, and earnings of 54.3p, and £415m and 57.5p next year.

Even after the setback yesterday the shares are trading on 14-times future which looks his enough in current conditions.

on BA tailfins

A SURVEY by a Swiss marketing organisation has found that British Airways new corporate branding, which includes controversial "ethnic"-painted tailfins, "communicates distrust".

An opinion poll by the Geneva-based Institut fur Markentechnik claims that BA's £60m programme has failed to get its message across, at least to the Germans.

Three hundred passers-by in Hamburg and Munich were interviewed and shown three BA tailfins and three from Cathay Pacific's range.

The survey found that twothirds said the designs gave the impression of a "small national airline" and one guessed it was Zimbabwe's national carrier. The same proportion said it looked like a relatively cheap" airline.

Only 6 per cent perceived it have its 330-strong fleet reas the safer airline out of the branded in time for the miltwo and just one in nine said

More bad news PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

boost of 47 per cent although be plugged into a telephone and volatile as opinions will be bumpy ride.

By John WILLCOCK

they could imagine the German president using the airline.

A BA spokeswoman said a sample of \$00 German shoppers was not representative of either its customers or the

world air-passenger market. "You have to remember that the fins only form one part of the corporate identity so any research based on that one element is flawed before take built.

off." she said. Baroness Thatcher fa-mously showed her contempt for the BA designs by using her handkerchief to cover the tail of a model plane. BA unveiled the revamp

two years ago and plans to



Alan Sugar: No plans to

which is expected to retail for

take Amstrad private

Weiting to be launched are £99. The success or otherwise of

new products such as the Phone these new products means Am-

Only Concorde retains a "British" image based on the Union flag.

Late already

WHEN RAILWAY passengers are told their timetables are subject to alteration at short notice, they probably don't Economic Forum, the annual expect them to change before summit held in the Swiss the trains have even been mountain resort of Davos.

arrival of Richard Branson's tilting trains on Virgin's West Coast main line from London to Glasgow will be disappointed to learn that nine minutes have already been added to their journey.

The target journey time has always been billed as three

the company unveiled details of its £1.25bn contract for 53 new tilting trains. The journey time was listed as three hours. 59 minutes. The Virgin spokesman was

unrepentant. "Our ambition has always been to get it under four hours to compete with the airlines. It may be that we will be able to achieve three hours and 50 minutes, but under four hours is the holy grail," he said.

Davos fever

TO OUTSIDERS the World might seem little more than a But travellers awaiting the free holiday for stressed-out executives.

> In fact, it seems the jamboree can be dangerous for your health. The latest highprofile victim of the "Davos" before his voice gave way. Disease" is Dr Heinrich von Pierer, the chief executive of

Yesterday Dr von Pierer E-mail: jwillcock@indepen hours, 50 minutes by 2005. was supposed to be spelling out dent.co.uk

the German electronics giant's Until yesterday, that is, when future as a high-technology firm in the 21st century to a gathering of the world's media in Berlin.

When the time came for his speech, however, it turned out that he was still tucked up in bed back home in Munich.

"He caught a terrible flu in Davos and he still has a high fever," said Dr Volker Jung, the Siemens director who was drafted in to deliver his boss's vision.

He hurriedly went on to point out that Dr von Pierer's condition had nothing to do with the excellent ski slopes that surround Davos but was in fact the result of a punishing schedule of meetings at the World Economic Forum.

Furthermore, Dr Jung admitted he wasn't feeling too wonderful himself, although he managed to struggle through his official duties

Sounds like they are both in need of a good holiday.

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THE BRIAN VINER INTERVIEW

LAST FRIDAY afternoon, four men sat in animated conversation at a corner table in the lounge of London's Grosvenor House Hotel One of them was the former world super-middleweight champion Steve Collins, who wants to come out of retirement. But the man doing most of the talking was Frank Warren, arguably the most successful promoter in the history of British boxing, responsible for 110 world title

Warren was breaking it to Collins that the purse for his comeback fight will not be huge, reflecting the fact that he is no longer the champ. Their two associates listened intently. All four men were nattily dressed, yet looked decidedly out of place in a sipping Earl Grey. Earl Grey, like Prince Naseem Hamed, is not Frank Warren's cup of tea.

On Parkinson three weeks ago the world featherweight champion Prince Naseem accused Warren of manipulating and exploiting him. This represented the knock-out blow to a relationship which was once as solid as any in boxing. And as a result, the famously litigious Warren has demanded an apology from both the BBC and Naseem, while saving most of his disdain for the champion's brother, Riath, who has taken over as Naseem's righthand man.

"When Naz was winning the world title, his brother was working as liaison officer between Sheffield driving a beat-up old car. I lived on a housing estate so Γm not knocking that. But the fact is that if his brother wasn't world champion, he'd still be living on that housing

"They say I exploited and manipulated him. If that's so, there should be a queue of fighters asking me to do the same for them. I have always looked after my fighters. I've written seven-figure cheques out for Frank Bruno, Steve Collins, Nigel Benn, Naseem Hamed, and I'm not saying I haven't made money out of it, but they've made money with me. Now these two want it all. They don't want to pay anyone. They've taken on board a trainer they can pay peanuts to, who nobody's ever heard of. Naseem is due for a big fall. I don't think he will achieve what he should

Warren says all this very calmly. Clearly, though, the gloves are off. He claims that when Naseem wanted to marry a non-Muslim, the Hamed family was bitterly opposed. "But I knew they were in love, I knew she was a lovely person and that she d be great for him. I told him all along, 'go where your heart is.' And God bless them, they're very happy."



Warren is entitled to feel hurt. Last month in the High Court, another very public tiff with a former partner was finally settled with Warren agreeing to pay the American promoter Don King £7.5m. Ironically, they fell out largely because Warren felt King was not doing enough for

Even Warren's enemies - one of

Naseem's career.

whom, let's not forget, pulled on a mask one December night in 1989 and shot him a couple of times might have to acknowledge that he nurtured Prince Naseem's career with care verging on devotion. Naseem has certainly acknowledged it. He once sent Warren a Christmas present in the form of a life-size bronze of himself, boldly inscribed: "To Frank Warren, the best promoter in the world, from Prince Naseem Hamed, the best boxer in the world." It is still in Warren's office. How come, I wonder, it does not now adorn a public lavatory? Warren smiles. "It's too heavy to

carry," he says. In person, it is hard to see how 46-vear-old Frank Warren can possibly inspire loathing and even fear, as has been known. He has an almost cherubic face, considerable

acrimonious break-up feel that charm, a keen wit, and he talks engagingly about his heroes, who include the old Arsenal centreforward Joe Baker, Muhammad Ali, Steve McQueen, Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael Owen and, above all, Frank Sinatra. In 1990, Warren promoted a Sinatra concert at the London Arena, and afterwards took him for dinner at an Italian restaurant. "He was so bloody down to earth. He sat there, still in his tux

notorious liberty-taker called Jack Spot." But Warren scoffs at those who try to link him with crime, and admits criminal intent in connection with only one man, the former editor of The Sun, who sanctioned a series of stories about his personal life. "Tve never met Kelvin McKenzie, but if he walked in here now, I'd go over and knock him spark out. I wouldn't be able to stop myself."

As for those who try to link box-

gets down on his luck and goes to the tabloids... it's never happened."

Boxing, of course, has a different stigma to cope with. Warren has promoted several shows in which fighters sustained terrible and, in the case of Jim Murray, fatal injuries. He expresses due horror, while quoting Murray's father to the effect that Murray acquired a status and dignity in boxing that he would not have

'They say I exploited and manipulated Hamed. If that's so, there should be a queue of fighters asking me to do the same for them. I have always looked after my fighters... Naseem is due for a big fall'

bucket of ice, wiping his face with a hot towel, and I asked him all the questions I'd always wanted to ask." Like Francis Albert Sinatra, the fireman's son from Hoboken,

Francis John Warren, the bookie's son from Islington, has long been reputed to have underworld connections. His Uncle Bob - "one of the handful of people I trust"-was convicted with "Mad" Frankie Fraser for slashing, as Warren loyally puts it, "a

from the show, with a bottle of Jack ing with crime. Warren is again con-Daniels in front of him and a temptuous. "Boxing is a real hard-nosed business, a cut-throat business, but it is not a crooked business. Look at the match-fixing allegations in cricket and football, look at jockeys throwing races, look at all the crap in the Olympic Games, the rigging that goes on just to get the event, never mind the drug-taking. Now look at boxing and name me one boxer who's been convicted of throwing a fight. It has never happened in

found in any other walk of life. It is a well-worn argument, and Warren is far too smart to endorse it absolutely. However, he bridles at my suggestion that boxing seems to throttle friendships, as in the case of Warren and Prince Naseem, Warren and Don King, Warren and

Terry Marsh ... "It's not the nature of boxing, it's the nature of life. It happens in other sports. It happens in the music business, with Spandau Ballet this country. Imagine giving a fella 100 falling out, with John Reid and

business, in publishing, it's life." Fair enough, except that musicians and actors don't shoot their business partners. Warren has an immediate rejoinder. "Tve heard of ice-skaters breaking each others' legs. Besides, the guy who shot me was mentally ill." He knows who did it. then? "Yeah I know who did it. A lunatic. And I know he's not been having a lot of luck lately."

Elton John. It happens in the film

Some would say the same of Frank Warren, Before the Don King settlement, his assets were frozen for 14 months. Later this year he goes to court again, against the Vatman. His stable of fighters no longer includes Prince Naseem. Yet he is the eternal, irrepressible optimist, merrily inviting me to Newcastle to see Saturday's world championship super-middleweight fight between Joe Calzaghe and Robin Reid. "It should be terrific, a real tough fight," he says. "It won't be no walk-over for Joe."

Although he is no Naseem, the Welshman Calzaghe is a skilled and ferocious customer, and with Herbie Hide, probably the pick of Warren's 60-or-so fighters. Of the rest, Warren suggests five or six, including the heavyweight Danny Williams, who

will soon get shots at world titles People have been wrong to write him off before, he says, and they are wrong to do so now. "When Keith Wallace got beat, they said I was out of the game. The same when Roy Gumbs got beat, when Colin Jones got beat, when Bruno got beat, when Nigel Benn left. But I'm very much still in the game." This very week, he adds, he will sign a new three-year deal with Sky. The future is rosy.

Only once in nigh on two hours does his guard slip, and that's when I ask whether if he had his time again, he would do things differently. "Boxing is a drug," he says softly. "It's addictive, in a way that people outside the game don't understand. My wife might be watching Prime Suspect and I am rummaging around the satellite channels to find some fight in Germany. But if I had my time again, I would not have got involved. I would have gone to grammar school, gone to university, and maybe done something in the film business. I would have stayed away from box-ing. I don't like a lot of the people in it. And it's very unforgiving. You do what you can for people, and very few

of them are grateful." This time Warren mentions no names, but several spring to mind.

The Press gang nobbled Hoddle

Sir. Now that the hysteria over the England manager's departure has gone, it is worth getting the story straight before we end up actually believing that he was dismissed for the "official" reasons given: a) Glenn Hoddle would still be

in his job if he had enjoyed a successful World Cup. b) The disabled people he was alleged to have insulted and hurt were mere pawns in the bigger game designed to remove him

from office. c: Despite their repeated denials, it is clear that the lower elements of the media had Hoddle in their sights since the World Cup and were lying in wait for any

d) Hoddle's lack of training in how to handle the media (his employers are to blame for that) combined with his very basic education led to that error - the clumsy wording about his beliefs he gave to the Times journalist and which was then exploited by

e) England has lost a promising young manager thanks to the

those who pandered to the mob, having first fed it, can sleep **GERARD HUNT**

equivalent of mob rule. I hope

Hemel Hempstead, Herts

Who's next?

Sir: As Hoddle leaves for another life, Arsène Wenger, perhaps the "best" candidate for the England manager's job, declares that the successor must be an Englishman. Where? Of those who have entered the frame:

Howard Wilkinson, the FA technical director, revolutionised the youth development programme in this country, but was a proponent of the long-ball game, a style that has caused England to fall 10 years behind Continental teams;

Kevin Keegan, a man who. when the going got tough, the tough got going;
Bryan Robson, a man whose

transfer policy was so poor, it relegated his team; Terry Venables, a man whose

most recent addition to his CV was the ruin of a Nationwide League club; Roy Hodgson, a good manager, but how could he motivate an

England team, when his own club captain was unmotivated? Perhaps we should all be Irish, and change the nationality of Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger? I am sure they had an English

GARY JACOB St Catherine's College, Oxford

Why not Evans?

Sir: There has been so much debate about who the next England manager should be yet Roy Evans has never been linked with the job. I find it strange as he has had experience at a big club and more success than many of those

apparently in line for the job such as Bryan Robson, John Gregory or David Platt. He would certainly not be my first choice but he certainly deserves consideration. STEVEN KILFEDDER Golders Green, London NW2

SPORTS LETTERS

Post letters to Sports Desk at 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number. Faxes to 0171 293 2894 or e-mail to sport@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Kelly's nonsense

Sir: Common sense is absent from Graham Kelly's article about Glenn Hoddle (3 February). He says he is disturbed "if the FA really sounded out senior members of the England squad". How else is the FA to know whether or not the team has finally given up on Hoddle, whose estimate of Eileen Drewery is that she is invaluable to the side.

Saying "Mrs Drewery did no harm" makes Kelly an ostrich. But for her and her ideas, Hoddle. in his recent and previous interviews, would have been focused on football - but then, she

London, W12

allegedly cured his allegedly se-

vere hamstring injury overnight.

No gold rush

Sir: I read in your newspaper today (9 February) that Mark Goldberg, the Crystal Palace chairman, is to offer five-year season tickets to fans in an attempt to solve his financial problems. I am a Palace supporter and season ticket holder of many years' standing, and I fully intend to be at every home game in the next five years, whatever division we are playing in - but I will not be taking up Mr Goldberg's offer. I have no intention of jeopardising the club's long-term prosperity by allowing any of its future income to be diverted towards digging Mr Goldberg out of a hole of his own Name and address supplied

'foreign' fudge

Sir: I write to complain at the pathetic reduction of national sports, into a free for all of "jack of all nations". The case of having so many Kiwis (and capped to boot) playing for both nations on Saturday in the Scotland-Wales Five Nations game is a case in point. Is there no pride left? In football, cricket, etc, the case is the same. We should stop this dilution of national teams, leaving the whole concept open to ridicule. I would rather see a Welsh

Let's stop this

team made up of Welsh players iose than a team tagged together win. I for one won't continue watching Welchester Utd, with all the best players persuaded to play for our nation. Let's remember the original concept, and limit eligibility to parents' origins, and particularly ban movement of any

player who has represented another nation . Name and address supplied"

Slight to Scots

Sir: Chris Hewett's belittling of Scottish rugby (4 February) was undeserved bearing in mind Saturday's superb game at Murrayfield Incidentally, Simon Turnbull is incorrect when saying Scotland's last clinching try in Paris was scored by Jun Telfer in 1969. Gavin Hastings scored a late winning try in 1995. RICHARD HALL Hemel Hempstead, Herts

Living in the past

Sir: Yet another Messiah, yet another false dawn. When will we Welsh realise that the glory years of the 1970s were a gift from the rugby gods and not a divine

We are a small nation with big ideas, well above our lowly station in world rugby.

We should accept what we are and not torture ourselves with memories of perfection. Only then will we truly enjoy it all again. S GUNNARSON

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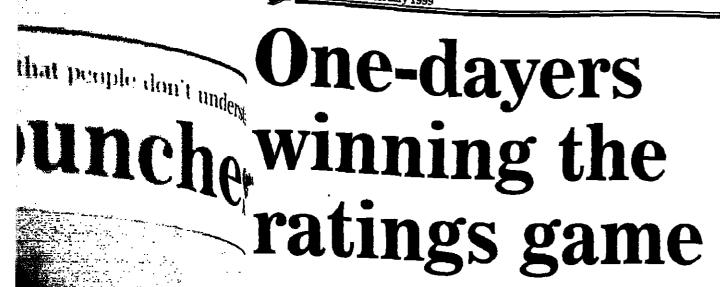
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Australian research supports view that limited-overs cricket is building the sport's appeal among the next generation of fans. By Stephen Brenkley

ONE-DAY cricket has always got Lanka. The Australian Open it in the neck for supplying only the quick thrill, the instant gratification. All denovement and no plot. Pulp but not literature. It has been that way for almost 30 years, since players first performed in the sort of match which was given a name designed to make it inferior: a "limited overs" international

Last week at a formal luncheon in Sydney they gathered to celebrate it. Players from across the generations were there and if it was not exactly an act of worship, it was an admission that one dayers are not only part of the game's present and future, they are also part of its heritage. They have helped Test matches to survive, but more than that, they have ensured they have changed.

This season in Australia the triangular one-day tournament has broken box-office records. a separate audience. If David Fouvy, the marketing manager of the Australian Cricket Board, had been James Cameron, the director of Titanic, he might have muttered something about being king of the world. He did not.

But matches have been sold out at Sydney three times, at Adelaide twice and at Melourne once, where 82,299 peoole saw England play Australia If the television figures have not quite gone through the stratosphere the hole in the ozone layer might have been nudged.

The latest figures show that one-day cricket internationals, on some nights, are the most watched of all programmes. On 26 January – Australia Day -2,916,000 people watched Australia play England at Adelaide watched Australia play Sri dreary Tests. And then there favour of positive cricket.

tennis did not come close.

Comparisons in this case are illuminating. At one point during the Adelaide match between the oldest enemies the cricket station, Channel Nine. had 772,000 viewers and was followed in rapidly descending order by Channel Ten, with 245,000, Channel Seven (168,000 with the tennis), ABC (71,000) and SBS (36,000). Cricket is big and the channels will doubtless be checking on how big.

Fouvy is careful not to promote the immense following for the shorter game at the expense of the longer form, what he refers to as the purists' game. "Test cricket is an ongoing drama which can shift from session to session and day to day," he said. "The one-day game is different. It has evolved in its own way and it appeals to

There are those who watch both forms but the one-day game appeals to the young. It attracts a female audience who go for the cricket but who go for an entertaining day out as well."

The solid evidence of those 22 years, of course, is that oneday cricket is not transient despite the sort of dreadful pitches which have been in evidence at Sydney in the Cariton & United Series this past week. While the ACB has made a conscious effort to promote the longer game since it re-assumed control of its own marketing under Fouvy five years ago (with some success), the board remains acritely aware of

the power of the one-day dollar. There are dull one-dayers, as there have been in this tourand two days earlier 2,781,000 , nament, but then these are eschewed boring draws in

are the resplendent occasions. Graeme Hick has scored three beautifully paced centuries for England in the past month, Sanath Jayasuriya opened both barrels briefly for Sri Lanka and Adam Gilchrist has proved a murderous stroke player. His 154 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Sunday did not gain him a place on the tour of the West Indies, but if the TV coverage is anything to go by his four monumental sixes placed him in the pantheon. Nor, in case the purists were wondering, should the incisive bowling of Glenn McGrath and Darren

of Test cricket - who needs it? This season, for the first time in 17 years when the influence of Packer and World Series Cricket was still being felt (it had split the sport five years earlier), the season has been divided in two. A Test series of five matches has been followed by a one-day series of 15 qualifying matches involving three teams and a three-match final. Followers have been able to concentrate on one and then

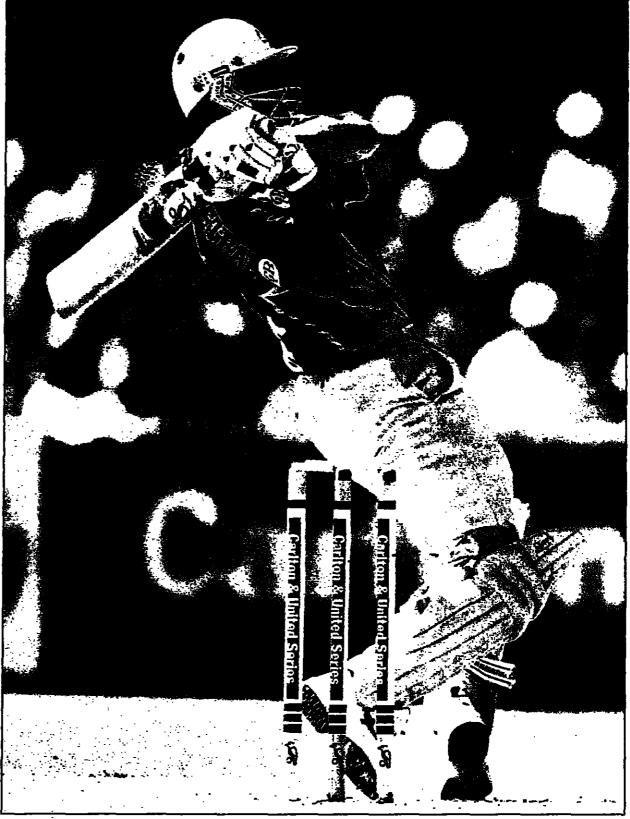
Gough and the parsimony of

Adam Dale and Alan Mullally

be forgotten. The sophistication

"Our analysis on this isn't complete yet and won't be for a few weeks," Fouvy said. "But my early indications, without committing myself, are good."

Like the marketing man he is, Fouvy refers to cricket as the core product. He knows enough, of course, to recognise that the kernel of this is a triumphant Australian side. He is delighted that the Test team has not only won but has almost changed the way of the five day game. It has



Viewers and spectators have turned on to the exciting play of Adam Gilchrist and others this winter Allsport

Perversely, the one-day game may have been the beneficiaries of this, too. Forvy is swift to emphasise its tactical evolution. "Australia won the World Cup in 1987 but we would not have a chance of winning it with those tactics now. It has changed. New Zealand tried opening with off-spin in 1992 with

some effect, then there was Sri Lanka, taking huge advantage of the first overs. We have got to the stage where people are objecting to changes in the game they know and love because it's breaking with tradition."

He talks of a third way, be it Super Max or some other hybrid. And he promises that

vive. "Young women watch only the one-day game but the evidence is that they later turn to Test cricket." It is 28 years since the first

Test matches will always sur- bowled of a Test match. It is almost a quarter of a century since the first World Cup, 22 years since Packer's breakaway transformed events forever. And three months till the limited-overs international was sixth World Cup, in England. provoked by the vagaries of the That will be the denouement. Melbourne weather and the The exciting plot is unfolding

Monty at Creek with a paddle

By ANDY FARRELL

in Dubai

IT HAD to happen sooner or later. In their endless quests to follow the sun and offer tournaments 50 weeks of the year, both the tennis and the golf tours have ended up in the same place at the same time. The Dubai Creek Golf and Yacht Club and the Dubai Tennis Stadium are just across the road from each other.

Yesterday it was possible to watch Colin Montgomerie complete nine holes of practice at the former prior to tomorrow's Desert Classic, and then catch Tim Henman's opening match in the Dubai Open. The only problem was negotiating what s the Middle Eastern equivalent of Spaghetti Junction that separates the two venues.

The leisure facilities, the ever busy roads and the increasingly vast hotels are all testament to the region's latest carner. tourism. The creek and the souks which line its banks are why the city originally rose to prominence as a trading port.

The Creek was the second championship golf course to be built here. Unlike the Enurates club, where the tournament has been played since 1989 and which is entirely surrounded by desert, there was no problem growing grass with water coming into play on 11 holes, the creek itself on the 17th and 18th. It was the sand for the bunkers they had to import.

Last summer the course was closed for three months while the rough was overseeded and the results put the US Open. where caddies have been known to disappear in the jungle just off the fairways, into the shade. Such conditions naturally play into the hands of Montgomerie, even though this is his first event after a two-month break, and could be a nightmare for Seve Ballesteros.

"This is perhaps not the right course to start for anybody to get some confidence," said the defending champion. Jose Maria Olazabal, who has been working on his driving during the winter. Seve. unable to work on his game during a threetorn body, found his way into a photograph in the local paper holding a tennis racket while giving Alex Corretja a putting

Montgomerie claims the only time be touched his clubs during the break was to change their grips but he dare not try and swap them for a racket. If Monty speeding around a court is unlikely then so is the name of the golf course he is designing here and which will be a future host of the tournament. In one of the flatter places on earth, it is called Emirates Hills.

"It's another busy year," Montgomerie said. "There is nothing special on the agenda. I just want to improve. That's my goal, as it is at the start of every season."

But the Scot is dogged by the question of when or if he is to win a major championship. "Hopefully, it is purely coincidental that I have not succeeded in the majors," he added. Of course, he has come close, notably in three US Opens and the 1995 USPGA. "It is a matter of being more for tunate. But my 76 in the second round at Congressional (in the '97 US Open) wasn't good enough. With the other three

rounds, I'd have walked it." For the past six years, once the majors have gone, Monty has found consolation in claiming the European No I title. Seventh heaven this year would be not having to salvage something from the last few months of the season. "If the four main goals, the majors, don't work out there is always something to play for. But the Order of Merit is not something I want to talk about in February. Ask me in September."

Loye lays England foundations Gough's work is wasted BY MARK HARGREAVES Swann to come in and a few NZ Under-19 110 and 55-0 Trevor Madondo at mid-on.

MAL LOYE mixed patience with sparkling strokeplay here yesterday to score an unbeaten century as England A built a solid platform on the opening day of the second unofficial Test against Zimbabwe A.

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: The Northamptonshire batsman was 122 not out at stumps, having shared a second-wicket partnership worth the same : amount with the opener Darren Maddy He made 64, as the tourists closed on 256 for 4.

Earlier, Michael Vaughan, the England captain, went without scoring with the total on 12 and although Robert Key and Andrew Flintoff also missed out, Vikram Solanki joined Loye

in Bulawayo

England A 256-4 v Zimbabwe A

to revive the innings with an unbeaten 36.

Loye, who slowed down somewhat after completing his hundred off 215 balls, is looking forward to advancing his score today. "I was thrilled when they took the new ball because it meant that it came on to the bat more," he said. "Darren Maddy batted superbly today and

other lads so 500 is the total we've got to look for." Vaughan, the Yorkshire open-

er, won the toss for the sixth time out of six and decided to take first use of a flat Queen's Club pitch. Although he departed quickly, hitting Bryan Strang off the back foot to gully, Maddy and Loye made amends by steering the total to 78 for 1 by hunch.

After the break, Leicestershire's Maddy turned a ball from Whittall to Andy Blignaut at short mid-wicket with the score on 134. Key, the Kent opener, appeared comfortable hopefully Vikram Solanki and I on his England A debut before can get off to a good start tohe drove Strang to a waiting morrow. There's still Graeme

Flintoff the Lancashire allrounder, soon followed when a ball from Whittall spun off his bat on to leg stump.

Utanilnes: G R Evens and E J Gillmour.

DESPITE A century by their captain Michael Gough, Eng-land Under-19s yesterday failed to build on the advantage they had gained in the second Test with New Zealand in Welling-

England lost their last four wickets for only two runs as they were bowled out for 225, a first-innings lead of 115. Although the tourists are still in the driving seat, they would have expected a much greater lead, having gone to lunch at 201

Gough picked up where he left off at the end of the first day, batting with great maturity and determination. He brought up

England Under-19 225 his hundred with an on-driven

four off Bruce Martin. He was later dropped at square leg on 116 but he did not add another run and was ninth out after a marathon 396-minute innings. His partnership with Dawson, who hit 45, put on 142 for the fifth wicket. But the batsmen, Gough

included, got bogged down after hmch when New Zealand took the new ball and only 24 runs were scored in 24 overs. The Kiwi openers survived

the last session to finish on 55

9-223 Bowling: Shaw 24-5-59-5; Hammond 26-7-54-0 Hendry 8-2-15-0 Martin 27-12-42-3; Frankin 19-3-47-2

Quellmalz on the welcome mat

Germany's world and Olympic nampion, now chief coach to the British Judo Association. In his final international competition last year, he was summarily thrown on his back by none other than Danny Kingston, the former British European

lightweight champion. Not the most diplomatic gesture by Kingston, it must be said, for his future will be very much in the hands of Queilmalz. Despite some hitches, Kingston's successes have pinpointed him as the man most likely to win a medal at the World Championships in Birmingham in October and the Sydney Olympics - and thus give Quellmalz a key result British men's judo needs.

Though Quelimaiz took on the best in the world, winning ship, he will find the British job of chief coach even tougher. Last year the men's and women's squads returned from the European team championships medal-less. And while the relatively new BJA chairman, Lesley-Anne Alexander, has been creating some order out of the post-Atlanta mess, there is clearly a long way to go.
"I know it will be difficult,"

said Quellmaiz. "I know there is

FATE HAS played a curious A rookie foreign coach has been given the task of trick on Udo Quellmalz, putting British judo back on top. By Phillip Nicksan then again in 1995 and Olympic coach of the women's team players, the coaches and the

BJA and I want to make a clear communication between us all." The greatest challenge Quellmalz faces is the time factor. It is eight months to the World Championships and it is unacceptable for the British

team to finish without a medal on home ground. However, the British men have not won a world senior medal for over a decade, and face-saving has come from the women. He will have some idea of the task at hand this weekend when Kate Howey and Danny

strong event which sees most top countries, including Korea and Japan, competing. Udo Quellmalz is 32, serious, likeable and straight-forward a hero in his own land, even though he is a product of the East German sports system. He was selected at 14 for the elite sports school and won the

European junior championships at 17 when fighting 20-year-olds. But it was only when the Berlin Wall came down and he moved to the Western side that he began to make an impression at senior level. He became some mistrust between the world champion in 1991 and champion in 1996. In addition, Quellmalz graduated with a degree in sports science, and learn on the job. has five years' experience teaching sport in schools. So, it was inevitable that he should go

into coaching. But his appointment is nothing less than controversial. For a start, he has never held a fulltime coaching appointment. And the great question is -

can he transform a British squad system confused, even demoralised by failures and changes over the past few years? Or will he, as one Ger-Kingston lead the British team man cynic has said, make all his to the Tournoi de Paris, a mistakes in Britain and go back to Germany to take on the top German post? He smiles at this suggestion. "There is no time for me to make mistakes," he says.

Alexander has taken a big gamble in appointing him. She is acutely aware that Britain has, repeatedly, appointed successful players to be manager or chief coach without any preparation. It happened to Brian Jacks, and more recently, to Neil Adams. They were both elevated too quickly, with little support, and with inevitable results. It also happened to Roy Inman, the successful

during their heyday - though he, fortunately, was given time to

Quellmalz declines to reveal a masterplan. "Judo is so complex, involving fitness, strength. technique and tactics, and it is impossible to develop all this in a short time. I am not Superman." His first job, he insists, is to get to know the fighters on the top national squads, and to go round the country watching them train

"I want to work with their coaches - it would be stupid for me to tell everyone what to do from the start. There is no point in showing them what I did to win, when they do things completely differently."

and talking to their coaches.

But there is a plan in which Draper, who will be in charge of fitness and organisation preparation. The British Judo Association has put in a £2m programme proposal to the Lottery Sports Fund which promises at least one medal in Sydney. After the remarkable history of Olympic medal success before the collapse in Atlanta, this would seem a small return for the outley, but

The state of the s

both Alexander and Quelimaiz see it as part of a build-up to 2004 to get back on course. Quellmalz demonstrates his

skill in avoiding medal predictions by saying that his first target is to get as many players as he can into the first seven places at the World Championships this year - because that will qualify them for the Olympics. But perhaps the greatest

irony is that his first task is to get errant Danny Kingston. the man who spoiled his final hour, back happily into the squad. Kingston was out in the wilderness since he went walkabout just before the World Championships in 1995; and he did not endear himself to the authorities when he failed the weight at the National Championships last year.

And not only is Quellmalz young, untried as a coach, and is effectively replacing great British names, he is also the Quellmalz is joined by Nick first foreigner ever to hold a senior post in British judo.

It all amounts, in a word, to pressure. The kind that he felt when he faced the unbeaten Shozo Nakamura in the World Championships final in 1995 in Chiba, Japan.

Behind with just a few secands left on the clock, Nakamura attacked. Quellmaiz countered to win. And that is what he intends to do in Britain.



German coach Udo Quellmalz has the task of taking British judo into the new millennium

TODAY'S NUMBER

78,000 The pounds won by

two women football fans from Whitby who correctly predicted nine results with a £10 stake. The final bet -Charlton to beat Wimbledon – came up on Monday.

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON A WEEK, it appears, is a long time in racing. After the weights for the Grand National were unveiled yesterday, all the main protagonists in the ante-post betting avowed their intention to go for both the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Aintree marathon because of the time between the races. There is the comfort zone of Blue Riband and Liverpool this year an extra seven days in which to galvanise tired horses, considering the span of recent seasons. It must be said. however, that three weeks is not a unique preparation time between the two and the great Golden Miller, back in 1934, remains the only horse to have completed the great winning 3.45 GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (CLASS A) £420,000 added 4m 4f (103 entries)

double.

If that feat is to be replicated, the odds suggest Teeton Mill will be the likely hero. Among their name in the record books are Double Thriller. Cyfor Malta, Suny Bay, Escartefigue, RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Lysandros NB: Trina's Pet (Wolverhampton 5.10)

General Wolfe, Addington Boy

It is Venetia Williams' grey, though, who owns the premium credentials. The Hennessy Gold Cup and King George VI on the racecourse at least, recently, but the Ascot Chase a week on Saturday may display his talents once again.

Williams is just beginning to learn what it means to train a neon horse. Bulletins concerning Teeton Mill's condi-

tion appear almost daily in various media elements, and

some of the them have been

gelding's recent muscle prob-

fering from azoturia, which

but counts for nothing chez

Williams. The trainer rubbish-

es the notion that serious af-

terest, but it's slightly disap-

pointing when you get people

and Lord Gyllene.

WOLVERHAMPTON HYPERION 4.10 Lysandros 4.40 Dispoi Clan

COING: Candred Status of Control of Sale Draw Advantage Loss to redde numbers best for 7.

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8. Auto-and Restaurant package prices of Damend Cubt. Restaurant package prices in the 25 and one of the anal CAR PARK: free Prevention and medicaR PARK: free LEADING TRAINERS: R Hoffmathead 68-56) rutners (12%) N Littmoden 48-356 (12%) B Johnston 47-24 (12%) P Event 43-294 (10%), J Berry 35-277 (13%)

8. LEADING JOCKEYS: S Sanders 43-311 (120%), Dean McKeown 38-302 (12.8%), J Measure 14-AXX (17%) D Hoffmat 31-133 (23.2%), J Quinn 30-414 (17%), B FAVOURITIES: 17% was from 1477 races (cardees 150 32.3%).

8. LINKERED FIRST TIME: Paster (140) Sand Storm (440)

2.10 NENE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3.000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,211 ESCHOOL SCHOOL (16) (SP) Proceeding Vertice 12, 271

USCHO TOUCH (16) (SP) Proceding Farm State 15 to 69 to 12. Martin Dayer 8

OFFICER IN COURT (4), Prior of Proceding 4 Base (59)? A Martin 5 (40), Prior of 12 (40), Prior of 12 (40), Prior of 12 (40), Prior of 13 (40), Prior of 14 (40), Prior of 14

THE Early is upfit 4.5.5 Thurson 1-2 for Lord Humangson Grown (7, 9 nm. FORM GUIDE

Lucky Touch: Stayety-on and on InSt Lingfold maiden on AN debut, but disappoint-on when het Evounte in this grade at Southwell providing and techning and packed and souther unerturnated. Net and to take a chart once about Order in Court, until cause for optiment an Soundary's 29 lengths 6th of 10 to Naked Critics in Louis. Child called all glouddings on pedigno. All their (mills although cultin 31 glouddings on pedigno. American Raise; het to reproduce her turf form on AV and well beaten in seller here to the till knight that it found bothness at Southwell (mill maden). Alteranden: The polition of found mangs though well behind all three claims in higher grade. Stead behind from the Louis both AV newcomer and yard out of form. Prince Consort Looked on the upgrade when 5 lengths 4th of it to Trage Dancer in Ling-led time than chapt an rewcomer to this surface and out at 21 looks a major problem on the reference and preferences.

The first interview of the content of the sprage and other index a major processor or brending and performance.

Superficial: We struggle to reverse Lingfield molf form with Prince Consent at 15b werse, shough more likely to but extra 01 and has Fibresand exponence.

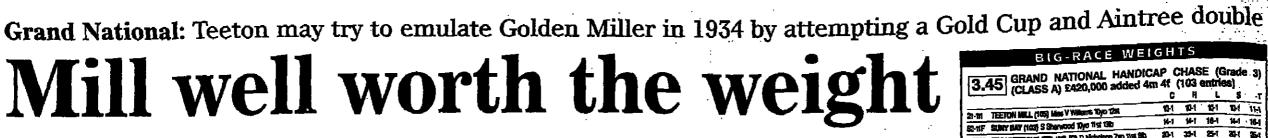
Crash Call Listly Payed in weak Southwell 71 soller in Nev and one-paged 8 lengths the of the Calls there on Finday (mill man). Plonty to find.

Nedstruct Newtonier to Fibresand, but form pick on 51's lengths 3rd to Mago Arrow at Lingfield, should mindow on Sourday, following promoting dobut.

VERDICT: It is difficult to see more than a handful of these getting home, and even with her stack of Fibricand experience. NADISMA will be hand to beat. She was staying on southy in higher grace of Lingbord and Gould prove too resource for Lingbord Touch.

2.40 SEVERN CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (Div i) £2,750 added 6f Penalty Value £1,679

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Flying foes: Earth Summit (left) and Suny Bay, the winner and the runner up in last year's Grand National, may take each other on again

mation," she said yesterday. "When you're training horses. things happen all the time and lem. He is said to have been suf- you're constantly trying to be aware of that and acting acmay be worth a lot at Scrabble cordingly. Stories have been made out of insignificant inci-

> "He goes for the Gold Cup first and foremost, and if all is well and we want to go for the Grand National, the option is there. Training him is quite

General Wolfe (Gold Cup possible), Martin Pipe's 14strong battalion is headed by Cyfor Malta (Gold Cup possible), and Paul Nicholls is hopeful about his ex-hunter Double "We are very happy with him it looks like he'll go back there trying to put away their read- terrifying. It's a situation you for the Jim Ford [Chase] and al continues its standing as unique configuration, a remark yard] because of that. It's a spe-

A total of 21 leading entries for the 10 April race have been allotted a mark alien to their normal rating, which suggests the Aintree factor which had become about as relevant to modern thinking as the Krypton Factor, has returned.

But then the Grand National is no ordinary contest. This year's minimum value of £420,000 for the 152nd Nationers and producing misinfor- hope you will be in, but once then on to Cheltenham," the the richest and most eye- which also applies to Lord Gyl- cial race."

At this stage, there are four fancied greys (Suny Bay, Baronet and Senor El Betrutti, as well as Teeton Mill, will have followers from the form book as well as the kitchen), and three former winners of the great race. The most recent of those, Earth Summit, is expected to emerge from a slump when confronted with the

you're there it's quite frighten- trainer said of the last-named. catching jumps race in the lene, a rather pathetic sight when pulled up in Uttoxeter's

Grand National trial recently. "Unfortunately he didn't get much of a run last Saturday as he couldn't go on the [heavy] ground," Steve Brookshaw, the trainer, said. "But he's on a fair weight, a mark he was on after he won the National

"Winning the race virtually changed my life. We almost doubled up (in numbers at the

Double Thriller worthy of an early flutter

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Mike's Double: Three-time course winner. Signify below best last two starts (hampered lifest) but better drawn here and should not be far away.

Pegebory: Not the torce of cld. though signs of return to form when 3 lengthe 5th to Acd lest at Lingfield (of hosp). Probably most effective on Equatics.

Garnock Velley: Finding his feet on Fibresand and besten short-head by Etion Ledger at Southwell (of) latest. Sow starter who will find this course less sustable.

Dona Filipe: Twice placed over 5th here in midsummer, but only placing class for Age; Oual Southwell winner lest year but still below best when bealen 1/s length by Rock Island Line in 6t seller there on Monday, Wide draw could be a problem.

Middeusster Night: Some shifty on turf for Richard Hennon, but all-weather debut at Lingfield last week for new yeard was scarcely encouraging.

secondamenter Agents Sorte abidity on fur i for Richard Hormon, but all-weather debut at Lingfield last week for new yeard was scarcely encouraging. Divide And Rules Without a win in 30 months. Latest 8 lengths 3rd to Elton Ledger at Southwell (51 clanner) leaves him plenty to find with Garnock Velley. Little Born: Seven-time course winner, though on 23-month losing run. Appeared back to form when 4 lengths 4th to finjan Girl in better grade over 51 here last week only to make ittle show here on Seturdey One to consider Opening Ranger: Course winner close to best when staying on beater 11/a lengths 2nd to Many Jane over 51 here latest. Plenty to do at the weights.

VERDICT: Pageboy has had problems going the early pace lately and, the Garnock Valley, could tace an insumounable task in this short straight, Little that is probably in the hight grade to halt his losing run, but the one they all have to beat is MIKE'S DOUBLE, who ran better than placings suggest last time and is entitled to every change

3.10 TYNE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £9,000 added 1m 100yds Penaity Value £6,302

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE trails and supplied that best winning mark and, plenty to do under penalty after beating Rying Officer 2 lengths at Lingfield (tim hosp). Westman's Weight, Carear-best effort when beating Sea Ya Maite 2 lengths at Southweil (7) lates. Penty of weight and yet to score beyond 7? has De Merabrises hot perfectly consistent but chance on lesest length win from Jacketen over timit here, from 5th lower but chance on lesest length win from Jacketen over timit here, from 5th lower at Lingfield (fin) less week. Massad break at Southweil on Mondey but ideally drawn for bold bid Lycians improving steadily and battled well to best yesterday's winner feofilic at length at Lingfield (fin) less time. The ligher now, but goes well here and well drawn Gett Of Gold. Everathing 6 lengths 6th of 9 to Buttinto at Lingfield (7h heap) tasest and well treated on best turn form, but timited Fibresand experience.

Arct Off the mark at 21st attempt when beeing Schillaning Sound ½ length here (7f), but will struggle to day 6th penalty our less suitable trip in higher grade.

VERDICT: Gift Of Gold at a perbolishy interesting candidate, running from 8th below his best but warrang mark following a promising Linglied effort. His 63-day absence is a work however, and preference is for the in-form Tatchild and LYCIAN, who has looked vary much on the upgrade in his last three starts.

12-1 GBC Of Gold, Art. 13-1 GBC Of Gold, Art. 13-8 Godf-ersham Park 6 8 3 G Parkur (3) 9-4 (P Feigale) drawn (4) 6 ran

THE MOST interesting news BY GREG WOOD when the wraps came off the Aintree weights yesterday was with the cylinders and spark that the National is no longer plugs. just another handicap chase. In recent years, the notion of an 20 horses in the list will carry Anitree factor in the handicap- a different burden to that which per's decisions had drifted out the official ratings would reof fashion, along with the steel quire. It may be only a pound

Smith, the new man in charge of the weights, decided to slide underneath the Grand Nation-finding the National winner is one of the first 10 names in the Teeton Mill may win the we're wal's bonnet and start fiddling difficult enough on the morning betting, and while the prices will Gold Cup next month, but even home."

2.10 Nadisha (nb)

3.10 LYCIAN (nap) 3.40 Selkirk Rose

2.40 Garnock Valley

Brook

No fewer than 14 of the first in the fences and the drop on or two here and there, but it the downside of Bechers' could be enough to move thick wads of cash from one punter's But that was before Phil pocket to another on the after-

noon of 10 April. Many backers will feel that

the weights are in the open, now been established. though, the process is exactly the same, the difference being

> deal more attractive. At least half of the eventual National field will go to the tapes without the slightest chance of success. Perhaps a dozen more will be live outsiders at best.

on his Soung Day naming here.

of the race, let alone two shrink before the race itself, the then, the grey will surely strugmonths in advance. Now that overall shape of the market has gle to give weight - perhaps as more than a 12-1 chance, but a

The horse for the money in recent weeks, if the bookies are obvious challenger are a great Mill, which only goes to show that anyone who bets on the Na- than a year ago but will receive published should not be allowed out unaccompanied.

Red Rum was the last top weight to win, and that was in three," Paul Nicholls, his trainthe days when the fences real-

The winner will probably be iy sorted out the also-rans.

much as two stone - to such an impressive field.

A far better bet at this stage that the odds on offer about the to be believed, has been Teeton is Double Thriller, who beat Tector Mill at Cheltenham less tional before the weights are more than a stone from the grey at Aintree.

> "On what we know so far, he's got the best chance of our er, said yesterday. "We know that he's an exciting horse and Teeton Mill may win the we're very happy with him at

good run in the Gold Cup - and who knows, he might even win it - could bring the price down

to 5-1 or less on the day. For those looking for an outsider, though, the bet at this stage looks to be Hanakham, who won the Royal & SunAlliance (Novices') Chase in 1997.

Martin Pipe, who trains the 10-year-old, has possibly been keeping him quiet so far this season so as to get a racing weight. At 33-1, he is a horse to

	(CLASS A) LIEUJOOG AND LIEUJOOG	C	Ħ	<u>L</u>	\$	-т
-	21-111 TEETON WILL (105) Mass V Williams Toyo 12st	10-1	10-1	101	TQ-1	11-1
ļ	SHE SURF BAY (103) S Shewood Toyo 11st 13b	14-1	14-1	16-1		164
1	42322 ESCARTERGUE (FT) (62) (C) D Nicholson 7yo Yint 96	20-1	33-1	<u> 25-1</u>	20-1	254
1	211-11 CYFOR MALTA (FR) (70) (C) M Fipe 8yo 11:2 40	14-1	14-1		12-1	16-1
i	201-1F GENERAL WOLFE (63) Miss V Williams 10yo 11st 11b	16-1	数1		14-1	16
	1-12PO EARTH SUMMET (77) (CD) N Twister-Davise 11 yo first	25-1	20-1	25-1	81	20-1
1	GB-6P2 GO BALLISTIC (70) D Netroleon 10yo 10st 13to	20-1	2			
	339F30 OR ROYAL (FF) (77) M Figs Byo 12st 120	50-1			40-1	50-1
1	21/AP LORD GYLLENE (63) (CD) S Brookshair Tryo Tost 12/b	33-1				20-1
	3P-1PP COOME HILL (105) W Dennis Toyo Tost 11b	33-1	33-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
ì	P2P-P4 CYBORGO (FR) (70) (C) M Pipe 9/0 10st 11 ib	40-1	86-1	50-1	50-1	411
	28-24 EUDIPE (FR) (51) M Pipe 7yo 10st 10b	20-1	20-1	14-1	14-1	15-1
1	22-1 DOUBLE THEALER (14) P Motols Syn 10st 8b	12-1	12-1	12-1	16-1	3-1
i	10-1F UNISHWASLE BOXER (70) (C) (BP) M Pipe 10yo 10xt 8b	33-1	33 -1	33-1	33-1	33-1
ì	P-4RIO SENIOR EL BETRUTTI (120) Mas S Nock 10yo 10st 7to	86-1			30-1	
- 1	FIS-PS BELLMONT KING (120) P Nichola 11yo 10st 7fb	33-1			<u>\$-1</u>	_
	OP-PES ADDRESTON BOY (82) (C) F Murphy Tayo 10st 710	<u>25-1</u>	<u>2-1</u>			
ı	1F-P3P UNGUIDED MISSRE (112) (C) N Richards 11yo 10st 70	<u>60-1</u>				33-1
	233FF- ROUGH QUEST (371) (CO) T Case/ 18/0 104 7b	25-1			33-1	
ı	1-11FP TANAPINDO (FR) (05) (C) (6F) M Pipe Byo (0si 4b)	35-1	50-5 33-1		38-1 33-1	_
1	11US1/ HANAKHAM (750) M Pipe 10yo 10xt 30	25-1 33-1	33-1		33-1	
į	-6341 DR LEURIT (70) P Hobbs 8yo 10st 30		20-1		25·1	
	PF-522 FIDDLING THE FIGTS (65) (BF) N Handason Syn 10st St 51-St BARONET (69) (C) D Nicholson Syn 10st 2b	20-1	_		25-1	
1	-2894 PAPILLON (4) T Winth \$0, 8yo 10g 1b	40-1	25-1		83-1	_
	1-2P44 CALL IT A DAY (32) (8F) D Nicholson Sye 10st	25-1	25-1	23-1	25-1	40-1
- 1	OUGP- BELLS LIFE (468) (C) P Hobbs 10yo 10st	50-1	40-1	86-1	50-1	40-1
ı	DESAU MORCELI (119) (C) J Howard Johnson Hyo 10st	66-1	100-1	66-1	50-1	66-1
	SGP-P AVRO AMSON (181) Miss J.A. Camacho Tiyo 10st	50-1	66-1	86-1	85-1	53-1
	OF-444 BANJO (FF) (89) (C) P Nicholes 9yo Bat 11/b	50-1		59-1	50-1	_
	1-25P KENDAL CANALIER (4) N Hamis Byo But 11b	20-1		46-1	25-1	
ļ	Urisis ATVER LOSSIE (77) C Egenton 10/o 9st 76.	50-1	66-1		50-1	
	3-823F CALLISOE BAY (83) O Sherwood 10yo 9st 7fb	40-1	50-1	50-1	50-1	
1	6U4-52 NANTHEN LAD (60) Mrs J Plemen 10y0 Set 7th	20-1	<u>25-1</u>	25-1 RG-1	25-1 100-1	_
1	20132 MELY MOSS (FR) (770) (BF) C Egentin Sign Ser 7b	30-1 33-1	<u>86-1</u> 40-1	96-1 59-1	33-1	
i	S2-S2 EVEN FLOW (70) T Casey 10yo Set 80 QLog PHILET'S WOODY (112) N Henderson Tiya Set 60		100-1		65-1	_
Ì	61,04 MADAHM (63) P Hobbs 13yo 9st 5b	86-1		_	50-1	
ı	SINGER ANABIATIC (12) M. J. O'Brien (kg 11/yo Stat Stb.	50-1	86-1	50-1	86-1	- 50 -1
	6-22FP SAMLEE (103) (C) P Hobbs Toyo Sat 4b	33-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	404
ı	-12104 TORDUFF EXPRESS (63) (6F) P Nichola 8yo 9at 3lb	33-1	50-1	50-1	<u>. 60-t</u>	86-1
	1/3313 KING LUCIFER (83) D Nicholson Toyo 8st Sto	33-1			33-1	_
	PJP-3F _LATTHES (CAN) (70) M Pipe Byo Sx 3b	68-1			40-1	_==
i	1030R DANGER BABY (60) P Bowet 9yo 9st 2b		200-1			
	S2-P45 FRIEE THYTHE (\$31) Mrs A Perrett 10yo Sal 20	33-1	40-1	66-1	40-1 40-1	
	1-5005 BOBBYJO (33) T Carberry (4) 9/o Set	40-1	50-1 100-1	40-1	188-1	
	15/436 BUCK ROGERS (82) V Bowens (A) 10/o 8st P-3811 LINDEN'S LOTTO (95) (C) A J Martin (A) 10/o 9st	33-1			40-1	
i	Q05211 TRESSLE SIOB (199) D Weld (40 Syo 8st 13b)	49-1				
i	PFP29- CELTIC ABBEY (256) Mrs C Hardings flys 8st 1255	56-1				
]	25/8 BETTY'S BOY (91) K Balay Dyo But 19th		100-1	86 1	100-1	
	HEAD BRANE HIGHLANDER (367) J Giford Tiyo Set 12b	40-1	40-1	40-1	33-1	90-1
ļ	122-11 STEP ON EYRE (27) H Daily 9yo 8st 12b	33-1	40-1	40-1	50-1	<i>\$</i> 0-1
	3-403P "TEME FOR A RUN (104) E CIGady (H) 23/0 But 12b	40-1	40-1	40-1	50-1	66-1
-	0-0020 WYLDE HEDE (ST) (SF) A L Moore (A) Topo Str. 12b	50-1			50-1	_
	2-164 BLUE CHARM (70) (C) Mrs S Bractume Byo But 12b		100-1			
1	34/43- COMMERCIAL ARTIST (420) D McCuin 18/40 8st 11 b			200-1		
	P-4420 FRAZER ISLAND (70) R Roses 10yo 8st 11 b		100-1	66-1	100-1	_
1	03-832 ANOTHER EXCUSE (76) E O'Sulven (41) That But 1810	50-1		68-1	100-1	_
i	424-84 CARREGO GOLD (USA) (67) K Balley 10yo Bet 90	50-1	66-1	50-1	66-1	
	OSERP HOLLYBANK BUCK (72) A J Martin (40) Bet Bet 910	50-1		50-1	50-1	
-	UFIt-4 PARAHANDY (72) Jakatra (14) Byo Bat 95	50-1			100-1	
	MP24 STRONG CHARMAN (128) P Nichols Byo Bat 95		190-1		66-1 100-1	
	45861 SHAMAGARRY (102) F Marphy 10yo 8st 8b	100-1 50-1		150-1		_
	2303P- WITH BEPURITY (250) (C) P Nicholb 10yo 8st 8b	50-1				
ĺ	82(34P MEPRY PEOPLE (100) J Queelly (rt) 11yo Bet 75	100-1 50-1	100-1	100-1	200-1 65-1	
j	1126-8 FARFADET V (FFR) (157) M-Pipe Byo 8st 6tb 4834- CAMBLOT KNRGHT (504) N Telston-Davids 18yo 8st 6tb		200-1		150-1	
	(2P-14 EMERALD STATEMENT (77) D Grissel 9yo 8xt 6b	68-1		50-1		
1	-22723 CAMPLERO (99) (C) H Marsess Toyo 8st 5to	86-1	40-1	50-1	40-1	50-1
٠ إ	FE-SM DRUID'S BROOK (99) K Salley Toyo Bet 4b	100-1	100-1	150-1	68-1	100-1
ļ	1/43P- BAYARD DIEU (483) N Gasales Tiyo 8st 3b	100-1	200-1	200-1	200-1	100-1
Į	21Pl/1 ISLAND CHEF (75) P Seasonard Toyo 8et 26	40-1	50-1	50-1	40-1	50-1
ļ	3PF-OP GO GO GALLANT (91) A Lee (91) Toyo But 18	100-1	150-1	100-1	200-1	150-1
ļ	F8503 LIVIER BIRD (72) J.A. Berry (in) Byo 8st 1 b	190-1	100-1	100-1	100-1	150-1
	2124 MISS DISKIN (117) R Buckler (b)ro Bet 11b		200-1		150-1	
-	PTGP-6 DRWALL DANCER (77) M Pipe 9yo 8st 1b		200-1		E0-1	_
	RP-080 DAMAS (FR) (S6) D McClain Byo Set			200-1		
1	POSPA OVER THE DEEL (323) J Howard Johnson Tayo Bat	200-1		50-1		200-1
1	(P5-2P DECTRORG (FH) (121) M Pipe Byo 7st 18b			200-1		200-1
1	DRIS-P CASTLE COM (175) (BF) J Howard Johnson 7yo 7st 19b	100-1		200-1		200-1
ı	35/1- RAKAZONA BEAU (495) P Bown 9yo 7st 19b FP4-PR CHORSTY (45) H Haynes 9yo 7st 12b			200-1		200-1
ĺ	492342 OBAN (19) Mes H Knight Byo 7st 120	100-1	100-1	100-1		125-1
ſ	28300 WATERLOO KING (104) J Wassin (41) 1250 7st 125	100-1	150-1	100-1		250-1
Í	P22000 TELL THE NIPPER (91) M Pipe 8yo 7st 126	100-1	50-1		150-1	
۱ ٠	1/P3-F BALLYMACREVAN (80) I A Duncan (Iri) 9yo 7st 12b		200-1			200-1
J	1U-12F FEELS LIKE GOLD (75) N Robards tilyo 7st 12b	100-1	100-1	100-1	66-1	150-1
Ţ	PS-BSP 1RESH STAMP (126) F Murphy 10yo 7el 11b	100-1	150-1	200-1	200-1	150-1
1	32/02 BALTYLINE (67) W Kemp Byo 7st 10b	50 -1		150-1		250-1
1	4F-P4F ST MELLION FARRWAY (185) M Pipe 10yo 781 10b	100-1	68-1	100-1	66-1	
1	2111/ OAKLANDS WORD (777) P Bowen 10yo 7st 10b		200-1	100-1		250-1
ļ	600-3P BACK BAR (115) D McCain Thyo 7st 10b 6FPUS- JOUNER (344) M Pipe Thyo 7st 10b	150-1 100-1	150-1	200-1		250-1
ı		احيم	age i	اليسيد	اجيب	البس
ļ		200-1	Mr.	295L1	200.1	200L+
	544-PP AROUND THE GALE (72) D Gardolio 8yo 7st 6to	200-1 HB, Pint		250-1 What A		200-1 Costell.
		HB, Paris	pinjakz.	What A	Hand, 7	psteft

3	.40	SEVERN CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (Div II) £2,750 added 6f Penalty Value £1,679
1 2 3	-31020 5-0040 30-005	PRIMASH (18) (CD) (R Howard Thomas) D Haydn Jones 7 9 4 PResery 4 SELUTIA ROSE (4) (Mass J Satt) J Green 4 9 0 J Finaling 6 Resident 4 8 12 Presery 6 Preser
4 5 6 7	0-0680 00-500	DCHUN (14) (D) (Linichaenge Limited) F Viction 6 8 ft
8	OLD-UA	STRAT'S OLDEST (16) (D) (Jack Blumerow) D Arbumot 5 8 6

BETTING: 2-1 Indicant, 3-1 *Spat's Guset, 5-1 Selicht Rose, 8-1 Miss Senance, 7-1 Sing For Me, 8-1 Chekuz, 16-1 Principal Boy, 30-1 Lochon FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Insteasin: The one to beat on her 1/4 length and to Theatre Magic at Southwell last morth. Not particularly relatible, but itsiting a major drop in grade.

Sellicitic Weights pick on official ratings, but slow starter whose latest 6 lengths 7th of 10 to Poyal Cascade here (6 incap) suggests she will get too far behind these Banareas: Bellow her hest last four starts, but chance at the weights on her strong-finishing 3rd to Silk Cottage over 5f here in Dec Lockson: Formerly useful handicapper. First run for 16 months when last of 12 to Cherry over 7f here last morth.

Principal Boy: Reserves his best for Southwell and has done his winning at 71 upwards. United appeal on lefts 18 lengths 9th of 10 to Thetayer at Southwell.

Chalitie Front-running Southwell 7f-him specialist. Quiddy in trouble when trying to make all over the last two starts and is probably best welched for the moment. Straff's Closet-On the side since Windows Off win in May 97, but stgrad of revival when, led 1f out, 2 langths 4th of 5 to 8ton Ledger at Southwell (5) seller) and has chance slang For Mar. of seller women here last Feb. Has not shown much for some time and will struggle to go the early pace, judging by recent efforts over 7 and 1m.

VERDICT: Straff's Quest offers a glemmer of hope on her latest Southwell effort, but she has frequently disappointed in the past, it should pay to side with INTIAASH, whose step down in grade should enable her to land a telling late blow.

4.10 THAMES HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,250 added 1m 4f

1 13-05 FALLED TO HET () (CD) (AC SD Racing) N Litimoden 6 10 0 ... J Tate 6 V 2 35:00- KUERANS BRIDGE (13) (CD) (G S Braj A Janus 49 R ... O Sentence 7 3 -2220 MODICARS (13) (D) (J E Abbey) P Eseru 59 10 ... T G Michaghin 3 4 4:00-0 SHARAZANI (RS) (D) (Frank Carles) O (Thesi 69 S ... S Whitmorth 8 B 5 02-22 LYSANOROS (7) (D) (Frence Clance Racing) N Chance 59 7 ... J O Smith (3) 6 2200- TALIB (231) (D) (Hs S Genter 6 Mr R J Cohen) P Michael 5 8 10 ... R Cochenna 4 30344 SLIP JB (S) (D) (Nigel Shieldy K Burke 6 8 S ... N Collins (5) 2 B 000-00 Tull (B) (D) (Dragon Racing) P Bowen 4 7 10 ... L Chantock 5 8 McCollins (5) 2 B 000-00 Tull (B) (D) (Dragon Racing) P Bowen 4 7 10 ... L Chantock 5 8 BETTING: 64 Lysindros, 7-2 Nookeri, 5-1 Falled To Hiz, 10-1 Kigenous Bridge, Table, Silp JB, 14-1 Steruszam, 18-1 Tel

SMirazzani, 16-1 Tisi 1998: Montechato 5 9 8 A McCanthy (5) 5-4 (av (R Guess) chassi (6) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

Failed To Hit: Three-time winter here who would have decent chance on form of altha-nexy stylength win here lest month. Over rine lengths behind Lysandros lest three
Nerans Bridge: Course and distance winner but off track since tailed off run behind
Norsic Lad at Newcastle (2m, might not have stayed) in September. Possibilities at best
Noutient: Consistent winning handcapper. Looks weighted up to thit but sealer task
than of late and lest track run, a ake and a helf length tith to China Castle, was decent
Statestant Ex-trial stayer. What beaten 28 lengths behind Fields Of Ornegh on all-weighter debut here recently and easy to oppose, even if better for that first run since July
Lysandross Form pick here on second to profite winner China Castle over course and
destince last week. Same mark here, though would teletify profer shade further
Taility Firity weighted on last Junes Windoor detaining win and respected, even though
heaving first run since 40 lengths behind La Chestelaine at Epsom leser that month
Stip Jigs Possibilities on best recent form, such as fourth to Space Race in quite welcontested race at Lingfield test month. Only fourth in Southwell seller since
Tail: Well-weighted on best and fourth and posebilities at big price despite well-beaten
runs at Southwell recently (needed first of them and posebilities at big price despite well-beaten
runs at Southwell recently (needed first of them and then raced over needequate) mit

VERDICT: LYSANDROS is the clear pick on recent form, having our a good sec-VERDICT: LYSANDROS is the clear pick on recent form, having run a good sec-and to the profife China Castle hare but week.

4.40 WELLAND SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,500 added 3YO 5f Penalty Value £1,822

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Legal Venture: Possibilities on very best form but recent efforts need improving upon, lest time 20 length lest to Trojan Gri in handlasp here, abott siter slow start. Dispot Clam: Good chance on best form, such as time-cusarter length win from Legal Venture (some terms now) here in November. Soff bask against her elders since Doity Day Dreaser. Possibilities on lest seasons best form but recent efforts are not good enough, last time over 17 lengths behind Royal Preview here. Dropped in class Ladycalar: hes not progressed but has decent chance here, dropped in grade after third to Trojan Gri in handlash here lest time. Third to Grasslandk in seller before that Goodhines: Improved on att-weather debut non when tourth to Keen Hands here lest time over ourse and distance. Outpeed then and could do with a bit further. Nicholas Mistrees: Improved run to finish late and last to estath in-form provious winner at Lingfield systemicity (B). Good chance on that form but shorter this is major worry Pashar. Falled to progress lest season and that run since near 15 length lest of eight behind Double Choice in Leicester nursery in July. Others are preferred sand Storm: Falled to progress on tell trigited maiden third when eight-length fourth to West U There in seler here lest week (B). Opposable star fatz run. VERDICT: LADYCAKE's thirds to the well-backed Grasslandik at Southwell and to Trojen GM here entitle her to win a race. Dispol Class is the Mariest danger

5.10	Penalty Value £2,659
1-4351	WEST U THERE (7) (CD) (Ex Westvery R Holleshend 9 8 (Sep)
904-22	COMPLEMENTARY (15) (W.) Harrison W. Harrison R.O.
0-3286	COMPLISENTARY (15) (W.) Happes W. Happes 52
54-543	SHARP RAYTHM (S) (SP) (Also I Bed) M Johnson 7 to P Feese
0-05	DISTANT BELLE (20) (Dead Shark Partnership) N Literacien 7 to
	Today of the second of the sec

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FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

West U There: Capitalised on drop into seller with win here last week (6f) but best handcap form needs improving on to derly today's 5b higher reark. Prideway: Off track since over six-length such to Autocrat in Chester nursery in September. Hes enough weight on belience and lacks any al-weather experience. James Deer Sid seeking overdue win but the one to beat here on last week's good second to the progressive Rayware Boy at Southwell on first rur since September. British's Petr Dual live-furiong winner who caped with stop up to today's trip winn good shad to Done And Duated off today's mark at Lingfield last time. Much respected here Risky Way: Regressive juverite seller witner whose last time out six-length fifth to Lady Peppetr at Southwell doesn't look quite good enough here. Complimentary: Improved form last from rurs, last time second to Diamond Gelezar in tax Lingfield handcap. More on off 46 higher mark but exits further off second to Uting Calm in a weak claimer here-came at two and a but furiong further Sitiaty Rhyther. Last time out tried to Barnboo Gertlen in poor Southwell seller (first claims Beller Poor form in three maldens, improvement required.

VERDICT: Jaules DEE is the answer after spiriting two provious winners at Southwell VERDICT: Jaules DEE is the answer after spiriting two provious winners at Southwell. VERDICT: JAMES DEE is the answer after spitting two provious winners at Southwell last week on his first run since September, Complementary and Trina's Pet are dangered

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d Cup and Aintree do Henman to face Swedish nemesis

TIM HENMAN will play Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, one of the sport's finest returners of serve, having advanced to the second round of the \$1m (£625,000) Dubai Duty Free Open for the first time.

Eliminated in the opening round by Boris Becker last year and Martin Sinner, also of Germany, in 1997, Henman, the No 3 seed, defeated Wayne Black, of Zimbabwe, 6-0, 6-4 yesterday, finally showing spectators here glimpses of the quality that made him a Top 10 player.

Bjorkman, ranked No 30, took advantage of a lumbering Becker last night, defeating the semi-retired former Wimbledon champion, 6-3, 6-4. It was the 31-year-old Becker's first match for three months and it showed, as Bjorkman gained his first win of the year. It is worth noting, however, that Bjorkman was drawn against Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the eventual champion, in the first round of the Australian Open.

The Swede has won the last two of his three matches against Henman, losing on grass at Nottingham in 1995. Biorkman won in straight sets in the second round of the 1996 Australian Open and in three sets on a carpet court in Stuttgart in 1997.

Henman's win against Black was not quite as overwhelming as it may seem. He had to save two break points in the opening set, which lasted 30 minutes, and did well to keep Black mainly on the defensive even

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Agriculture

BY JOHN ROBERTS in Dubai

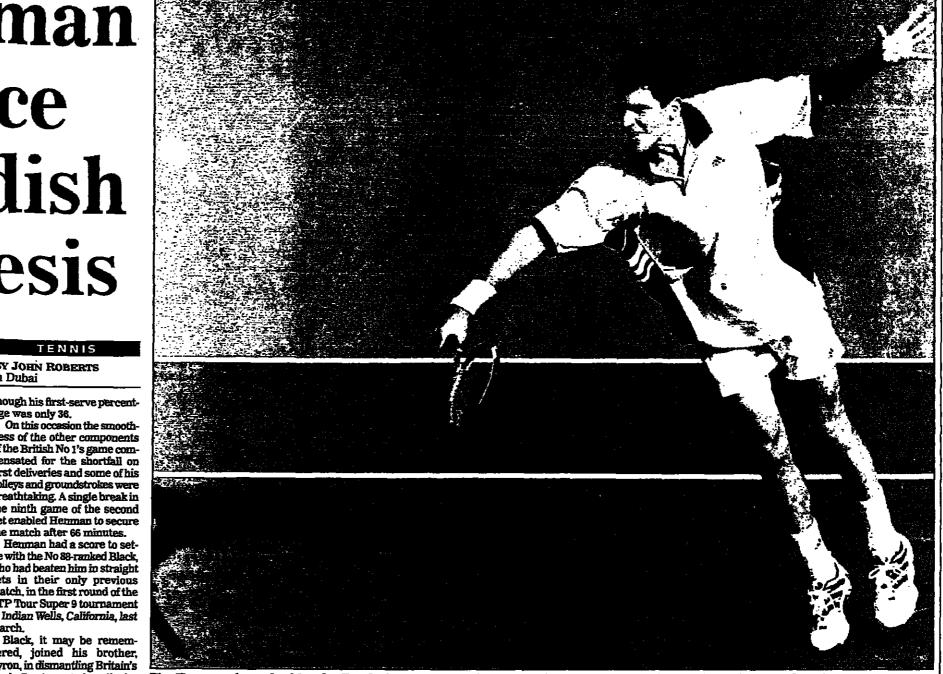
though his first-serve percentage was only 36.

On this occasion the smoothness of the other components of the British No 1's game compensated for the shortfall on first deliveries and some of his volleys and groundstrokes were breathtaking. A single break in the ninth game of the second set enabled Henman to secure the match after 66 minutes.

Henman had a score to settle with the No 88-ranked Black, who had beaten him in straight sets in their only previous match, in the first round of the ATP Tour Super 9 tournament in Indian Wells, California, last

bered, joined his brother, Byron, in dismantling Britain's Davis Cup team (minus the iniured Henman and Greg Rusedski) at Crystal Palace in 1997. Given the vagaries of the Davis Cup, it is possible that the two countries will meet in Zimbabwe in the second round this year. Britain must first defeat the United States in Birmingham and Zimbabwe repeat last vear's victory against Australia, this time in Harare.

As Henman pointed out, much can happen before the Davis Cup comes round in April, and he was pleased simply to have made up a little of the ground he lost early last



Tim Henman plays a backhand volley during yesterday's first-round victory over Wayne Black at the Dubai Duty Free Open

year (the defeat by Becker here was his third consecutive firstround loss).

Last month brought a mixture of progress and frustration for Henman. He advanced to the final of the Qatar Open, only to be beaten by Rainer Schuttler, an inspired German qualifier. Then came a major disappointment at the Australian Open, where Henman was defeated in straight sets in the third round by the Swiss Marc Rosset, with the year's first Grand Slam

Henman has an opportunity to relax on the golf course today by participating in a proam event on the eve of the PGA Dubai Desert Classic at the nearby Creek Club.

"In golf you sometimes hear about a player being paralysed by analysis." Henman said. "In the match with Rosset I think I just played badly that day. But there was nothing wrong with my game. Perhaps I was not aggressive enough with my serve. I should have played like he did."

Henman did not play for eight days after the Rosset match, nor did he pay much heed to the television coverage from Australia as Kafelnikov proved to be the man who had what it took to win the title, "Watching television is the last thing you want to do when a

Henman said. Gary Player recently used the phrase "paralysis by analysis" in relation to Nick Faldo's slump. Henman, an admirer of

tournament you felt you had a

good chance in is still going on,"

your shots you have to look at When Henman's game sings, he has reason to talk of taking up residence in the

world's Top 5. The 24-year-old

[the saying] to my game 12

months ago, there had to be a

lot of analysis. I had to find out

why (it wasn't working). As

hard as you try, sometimes

you go on the court and play

badly. The best way to deal with

this is to put it behind you. But

when something is wrong with

Faldo, said: "When I relate from Oxford was asked yesterday if he had set himself a time limit to become No 1 in the world. "The next millennium maybe," he replied. Rusedski, the No 4 seed,

will play Francisco Clavet, of Spain, in the second round tonight. Clavet, ranked No 29, edged out Wayne Ferriera of South Africa 13-11 in a third-set tie-break. Rusedski defeated Clavet, 6-1, 7-6, in their only previous meeting, on a similar concrete court in Indianapolis

Leeds at optimum strength for Wigan

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Dave Hadfield

RICHIE BLACKMORE is set to give Leeds a significant boost for their eagerly awaited Challenge Cup tie against Wigan on Sunday by proving himself fit after fears that he would miss the match.

The New Zealand Test centre has been recovering from knee surgery, but his coach, Graham Murray, said vesterday that he was likely to

"Richie could well play." he said. "He is fairly keen about his chances and it would be a bonus to have him there. He is a class player in these big matches." If Blackmore is fit, Leeds will

be able to field a full strength team. By contrast, Wigan are still wrestling with the question of how to cover for the absence of Tony Smith. Their new Australian, Mark

Reber, flew in yesterday and declared himself fit and ready to play the full 80 minutes at scrum-half if necessary, but the Wigan coach, John Monic. is still hedging his bets.
"My inclination right now is

to give him the No 7 shirt, but I want to see him train and sec how quickly he gets used to us. Monie said.

Murray does not believe that Smith's absence gives Leeds a crucial edge. "I think they have enough good players to cover for him," he said, but added that he had done "some homework" on Reber.

"He is a half-back who was nanufactured into a hooker at North Sydney, so I'm sure he would handle it," Murray said. Joey Hayes, who missed

virtually all of last season at St Helens through injury, goes straight into Salford's new-look side for their tie against the Cup-holders, Sheffield Eagles, on Saturday. Hayes is one of eight players making their competitive debuts for the club against the side that beat them in last season's semi-final.

CHEPSTOW

HYPERION 1.50 Native King 2.20 Marlborough 2.50 Kingsmark 3.20 Earthmover 3.50 Bonny 4.20 Tinotops 4.50 Dark Kestrel

GOING: SOft.

Left-hand, undusting course with a run-in of 240yds.

Course is on A486 Chepstow station (Carditt - Gloucester line) in ADMISSION: Cub Ct; featuresds th (CAPs E5). CAR PARIC Free Under 15s free all enclosures.

FIVE-VEAR STATISTICS

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 41-203 (202%), P Nicholis 29-100 (29%), P Hobbs 27-100 (27%), N T-Davies 22-121 (18.2%, LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 38-182 (23.7%), R Dumwoody 23-12 (20.5%), C Liewellyn 18-110 (18.4%), R Johnson 15-85 (17.8%), FAVOURITES: 151-382 (38.5%).

AVOURITES: 151-382 (38.5%).

LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Who Dares Wins (2.50) and Naughty Future (3.20) have been sent 256 miles.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Charden (visored, 4.20).

1.50 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

FORM VERDICT

After Tongoo's defeat of Crazy Horse on Saturday, it is hard to oppose BACCHANAL, who made such a promising debut when second to the Weltherby winner at Huntangdon last month.

2.20 ASPIRING CHAMPIONS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 added 3m 4-3212 HOLDINGLOSE (13) (D) R Frost 9 11 B. 3 1030R DANGER BABY (60) (D) F Bowen 9 10 9 ... T J Murphy B 4 011EP A N C SIDPRESS (16) (C) (D) J King 11 10 4 ... T J Jenies 5 11-28 NAUGHTY FUTURE (16) J J ONeil 10 10 0 ... R McGrath 14-355 PERNYMOOR PRINCE (20) (CD) R Frost 10 10 0 ... I Frost 24-1P2 ACT IN TIME (32) (D) T George 7 ft 3... 00-1 (NOMAN MISS (55) M Pipe 7 ft 3...... 2304P SEE ENOUGH (23) (CD) R Buckler 11 17 3... 24P385 BALLY LIRA (18) P Rodford 7 10 12....

BETTING: 1-2 Markorough, 13-2 Holdfactore, 7-1 Act in Time, Indian Miss, 14-1 See Enough, 50-1 Bully Lira. FORM VERDICT

it will be a major upset if MARLBOROUGH does not extend It was used in inspection and in any number of the state 2.50 PERSIAN WAR PREMIER NOVICE HURDLE

(Grade 2) (A) £15,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

11-211 BOSUNS MATE (39) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 12 C Licensitys

FORM VERDICT

nay and Stretching make most appeal on this seasons in, but CHARLIE CHANG looks the bet. He has faced stiff tasks in his two runs this term and is better judged on his sec-and at Uttoceter and third at Hereford (both in novice hands

3.20 JOHN HUGHES GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL

Minimum weight: 10st. True handcap weights: Naughty Future 9st 12fb, Pen-

personnin vegore: tits: the nanocap vegore; resupiny rutine six 1720, Perrymoor Prince Str 178.

BETTING: 15-8 Earthmorer, 9-4 Spartiting Cose, 4-1 Naughty Future, 152 A N C Express, 10-1 Design Beby, 20-1 Prinnymoor Prince
FORM VERDICT

EARTHMOVER looked a very good prospect at Cheltenham
last March and again on his Newton Abbot reappearance, until
falling. He might be good enough, even if just needing this run.

3.50 FEBRUARY CONDITIONAL SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (F) £2,500 2m 110yds

H'CAP CHASE (B) £12,000 3m 2f 110yds

4.20 EARTHSTOPPERS HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 added 3m

22U1-2 AVOSTAR (P10) (D) Mrs C Balley 12 12 7 5215-5 SAFFRON MOSS (P17) (CD) Mrs. S Fort 9 12 4 Mrs. R Fo

BETTRIC: 6-4 Tinotope, 9-4 Avostar, 7-2 biles Millibrook, 5-1 Selfron Moss,

TINOTOPS is a classy hunter who comes here in good heart after a Larkhil win. He is the one to beat, with Miss Millibrook a potential threat if she comes back to her basit. Avostar should run his usual good race, but Tinotops probably has a bit more

4.50 TONY PRESTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 1/1PP- CLAUDIA ELECTRIC (368) (D) Miss C Johnsoy 7 TI 10 ...

FORM VERDICT

Allez Wijlina was a ter hurdler in his younger days and could be on the way back, but a better proposition may be the ex-rish MASHKAPOUR, who was not disgrazed behind Primier Generation at Warwick on his first start for Philip Hobbs. Dark Generation at Warwick on his first Kentral may be best of the rest

FORM VERDICT Groom's Gordan could struggle to get the trap over hurdles, and preference is for INTERDREAM, who faded in the late stages over 2m4f at Doncaster last month but should be seen to much better effect over this distance.

Frost so foreboding

FROST IS threatening today's there are still some touches of meetings at Ludlow and Chep- frost in some odd patches. stow. Inspections are to be held at both tracks this morning. Yesterday's cards at Carlisle and Warwick were called off.

course at Ludlow, said yesterday: "The temperature has not risen as much as forecast today Chances of racing tomorrow must be rated as very poor. We'll inspect at 7.30am."

At Chepstow, subject to a 7.45am inspection, clerk of the course Rodger Farrant was less pessimistic. "We could have raced today. However

Tonight's forecast is for temperatures of -3 or -4C, which is not terrible." Tomorrow's card at Win-

Bob Davies, clerk of the canton depends on an 11.30am inspection today. Prospects were described as "very bleak". Huntingdon, also due to race tomorrow, is in a similar plight.

Officials at Newbury, due to race on both Friday and Saturday, are pinning hopes on a warm front - forecast to arrive sometime on Friday. Hunter chase pointers will

appear tomorrow

RACING RESULTS

LINGFIELD

6 ran. 114, 6, 7, 11. 24 (unriner bay geld-ing by Nordico out of Flying Disa trained by K Burks, Wantage, for Nigel Shektst Tota: win £500: places £190, £180, DF £290, CSF: £1884 Going: Standard

4.00: (2m, handicap)
1. HARIK ______
2. Padauk _____
3. Musalee _____

____T Sprake 2-1 fay ____R Brisland 40-1 ____P McCabe 3-1 Also ran: 6-1 Key To The City (4th), 5-2 Mawkob (6th), 12-1 Cevellina, 12-1 L'Estable Fleurie (5th), 12-1 Raspberry Sauce, 25-1 Broughtons Error, 50-1 English

Lary.

10 ran, 3'h. 'h. 'l., 1'h. 1 (whiner chestriut horse by Night Stuff out of Rivoltade, transed by A McNee, at Epsom, for The lona Stud). Tother with 1280's places \$150, \$500, \$100 Dual Forecast: \$4290. Computer Swelett Engages.

2.30: (bn 2l, claiming stakes, 3yo)
1. AN EXECUTIVE DO _P Goods 4-5 fav
2. King Flyer ______ Darren Williams 2-1
3. Little Henry _____ R Price 18-1
Also ras: 10-1 Coral Reel (5th), 14-1 Simpson's Domain (4th), 14-1 Winnower, 20-1
Martha Reilly (6th), 25-1 Caerdydd Fach,
2. The help 5 for 3 settings chertury meth. & ram. hd, 5, 5, nk, 3 (winner chestnut geld) ng by Executive Main out of Annacando, trained by P Hastern, Middleham, for Terry Rowley). Tota: win C170; places C130, P110.

\$140, DF: \$200 CSF: \$270.

3.00: 69L maiden stakes) 1, DEVILETTA _A Gerth 6-4 fev 2. Love Opera......G Certer 3-1 3. ScurrBous.......Dean McKeown 25-1 Also ren: 5-2 Frederick Jernes (4th), 13-2 Danakii, 14-1 College Choir, 16-1 Asysoid (5th), 50-1 Secret Tango (6th). 8 ran. 5, 2 k. 3, 3, 1. (winner chestrut filly by Tempolino out of Polish Devil, trained by J Gosden, Newmarket, for Sheikh Mohammed) Tote: win £250; places \$100.

\$150, \$280, DF; \$440, CSF; \$850.

Strongdaka.

13 ran. 2, 3, 2, hd, 2, (winner chestrut gelding by Perssan Bold out of Yaqut, trained by G. I. Moore, Brighton, for The Best Beach Parmershol, Took was 88 ng, places \$2.40, \$190, \$2.20 DF: \$23.90, CSF, \$30.84 Tricost 122989. Tota Trifecta: 131510

Amende Senders 20-1
Also mat: 5-1 Lady Carcine (6th), 7-1 Accrdate Girl (4th), 7-1 Westade Flyer, 33-1 Credenze (5th).
7 ren. hd, 3, 11%, 11%, rik. (wenner bay filly by Boveled out of Foreign Abstress, trained by P D Exams, Weishpool for J E Abbey).
Total win 1990; places 1370, 110, DF: 5470, CSF: £18.52.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (part won, pool of 22,778.21 to Wolverhampton today).
Placepot: £17,50. Quadpot: £16.30. Place 6: £24.22 Place 5: £1540.

■ Celebrations were under way at the Best Beech pub in Wadhurst, East Sussex, last night after Harik took the Eddystone Handicap. The

winner is owned by nine of the reg-ulars and ex-landlady Jenny Peel. ■ Angus McNae celebrated his fourth winner of the all-weather season when Teolilio took the opener under Tim Sprake.

FIRST SHOW WOLVERHAMPTON 3.10 CHLST Lycian 103 84 94 31 103 Pas Da Marroline, 3-7 4-1 7-2 7-2 10-3 Wanted 19 Whigh 72 72 41 31 103 Telebel 72 72 72 92 03 Ballion Symphony 7-1 8-1 8-1 13-2 7-1 8-1 (2-1 14-1 F-1 (2-1 GMLOF Gold 12-1 16-1 12-1 14-1 14-1 Each way a quarter the ockt, places 1, 2 C Cord, H William HR, L Lacksonius, S Starting T Total

*THE INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 INDIOM 972 982 WOLVERHAMPTON 973 983 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 97ก

LUDLOW

HYPERION

1.30 The Fly 2.00 Galloping Guns 2.30 No More Hassle 3.00 Avro Avian 3.30 Shining Light 4.00 Groom's Gordon 4.30 Titus Andronicus 5.00 Boro Sovereign INSPECTION: 7.30am

GOING: Good, slight trost in places.

Right-hand course. Chase course has sharper bends than hurdies course

Course is NW of form off A49. Luciow station, (Hereford Shrewsbury ine) 2m. ADMESSION: Cub E14; Tattersals E10 (OAPs
receive £2 refreshment voucher); Course £5. Accompanied
under-166 free. CAR PARIC Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 25-95 (26.3%), D Nicholson 22-61 (36.1%), K Balley 19-62 (23.2%), N Handerson 13-30 (43.3%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 23-63 (27.7%), R Johnson 22-106 (20.4%), A Maguite 5-79 (20.3%), R Dunwoody 14-54 (25.9%).

FAVOURTES: 18-401 (36.1%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Vendoon (2.00), Highway Five (4.30).

1.30 KILVERTS HOTEL HAY ON WYE MAIDEN HURDLE (E) (Div i) £2,000 added 2m

T.30 HUROLE (E) (Div I) 22,000 added 2m

10. C'EST MOI LAURIEL (321) (D) Mes V Willems 5 1 8 J. Ouborns
0 CARLTON (25) N Twiston-Davids 5 11 8 J. Ouborns
1352 COBLE LANE (879) I William 7 11 8 J. Ouborns
2352 COBLE LANE (879) I William 7 11 8 J. Ouborns
1367 CRICKETING (20) T George 7 11 8 J. Outornoon
1367 CRICKETING (20) T George 7 11 8 J. Outornoon
1367 CRICKETING (20) T George 7 11 8 J. Outornoon
1368 CRICKETING (20) T GEORGE 7 11 8 J. Outornoon
1368 CRICKETING (20) J M Backing 5 11 8 J. Outornoon
1368 CRICKETING (20) J M Backing 5 11 8 J. Outornoon
1369 CRICKETING (20) J M Backing 5 11 8 J. Outornoon
1369 CRICKETING (20) J M Backing 5 11 8 J. Outornoon
1369 CRICKETING (20) M Hoston-Elia 5 11 3 J. Outornoon
1369 CRICKETING (20) Miss K Marind 4 10 2 J. L K Outornoon
1369 CRICKETING (20) Miss K Marind 4 10 2 J. L K Outornoon
1369 CRICKETING (20) Miss K Marind 4 10 2 J. L K Outornoon
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1369 CRICKETING (20) Miss K Marind 4 10 2 J. L K Outornoon
1369 CRICKETING (20) CRICKETIN

18 decient 18 decient 18 decient 19 decient 1

FORM VERDICT THE FLY, a classy performer at his best on the Flat, can underture his Chelenham potential with a winning hundles debut. Master Term is the pick of those with jumping experience, but Prince Of My Heart and Drawns Of Nurmi, two other recruits from the Flat, may also pose problems.

2.00 CHURCH STRETTON SELLING H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m FORM VERDICT KINGSMARK has answered every question asked of him so ter and, atthough this is by far his stemest test, he deserves to be followed until beaten. Rio's King has to be viewed as the pick on form, but he is clearly a difficult ricle and there is always the chance he will took away victory, as he did at Newbury. Bogums Mate stays all day and may find himself beat-

FORM VERDICT

Mutanesate must not be demissed lightly in this grade, and it is worth woting that this is the first time this season he will be raining on good ground. But preference is for GALLOPING GUNS, who is also beat on gooding ground and will have conditions to suit for the first time in a while.

2.30 P.J. JOINTING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,250 added 3m

FORM YERDICT

2222 NO MORE HASSLE (80) (BF) Mrs M Peveley 5 11 10.

8 2F10US BRISH SEA (USA) (20) B Unwellyn 6 To 12 Miles E J Jones 7 PROSE BLAZE OF OAK (SIGN) P Ecoles 8 10 11 Miles V Roberts (7) S SPP0 (SIGNS'S GOLO 22) Mrs. Holards 9 D 66 M M Rebards 9 P440-0 MULING SROOK (70) J M Bradley 7 TO 5 R Johnson 10 S0803 BRANKE (FP) (20) P Famel 6 TO 4 R Wildger (5) 1 Proff BALLYNGSSANN (13) D P Femil to 104 A TO 4 R Wildger (5) 1 S0000 BRITAMMEN MILLS (62) R J P From 6 TO 4 R J Millsguer 24 40365 GALLOPING GURS (5) (CD) B Liberdyn 7 TO 4 D McPhall (5) 1 S0000 BRITAMMEN MILLS (62) R J Proc 8 TO 1 A LO McPhall (5) 1 S0000 BRITAMMEN MILLS (62) R J Proc 8 TO 0 R J Batchalor (5) 5 000PD AYDISUN (5) R Curis 7 TO 0 R J D R J Batchalor (7) 0 D R J BATCHANOS NETO (74) B Proc 8 TO 0 R J Williamson 10 US-50 NICHYOCHEY BOY (103) Miles 2 Descen 10 TO 1 G J Goldstan (5) 8 500-0 TOMETY SCAMPLE (USA) (20) P Bowen 8 TO 0 A Maguins B 20 04POPS BON LUCK (104) B Proc 8 TO 0 R J M Williamson 10 TO 1 Tool Mills (104) The hendicap weights: Constiguents Hero Ref 12th, Aprilan Set 72th, Nagura Sound 941 TIS, Inclycioney Boy 9at 10th, Timely Cample 8st 10th, Bot Luck 8st 8th.

BETTING: 11-2 Tempendiato, 13-2 Galfoping Gans, 7-1 Matanassio, 8-1 Irish Sec, 9-1 Enraws, 10-1 Milling Brook, Bellyldessin, 12-1 Among latands, King's Gold, Luck Prederick, 16-1 others

8 49-1 AVRO AVIAN (120) J J C'Nell 5 10 3 L Cooper (7)
7 431-46 JANGLYNYVE (27) (D) Mrs M Jones 5 10 0 A Mitguine
8 00-035 NYDEMILLA (57) Mrs 7 Midright 9 10 D V Stattery

- 8 declared Minimum weignt: 10sl. True handicep weights: Janglynyve 9st 13th, Hydemille Ser 100.

BETTING: 5-2 Telesacromo, 4-1 Avro Avian, Brush With Time, 9-2 Glaciel Missila, 6-1 Cadisury Castle, 10-1 Janghynya, 20-1 others
FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT

Chaciel Missele could improve for this better ground, which is what Avro Avian has been waiting for But perhaps the annual process of the perhaps is what Avro Avitan has been weating for. But perhaps the anwer is JANGLYNYVE, who had the speed to what up to finzion the Flat and was bought in for senous money after winring a selling hurdle at Strafford lest term. Entitled to need
the leases run, when she firshed in front of three subsequent
winners despite finishing only soth of 10, she may be capable of turning the tables on fourth-placed Brush With Time.

3.30 ATTWOOD MEMORIAL TROPHY H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 4f

- 9 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handloop weight: Beyond OurReach 8st 12b.
BETTING: 2-1 Cardinal Rule, 3-1 Shinteg Light, 9-2 Peace Lord, 5-1 Sierra Bay, 7-1 Cookean Hero, 12-1 Jennaro, 25-1 others FORM VERDICT

Construit Rule could be at false odds, and with plenty of other tront-numers around, he may be worth opposing. Quirky Shining Light could have the race run to suit him, while Jernaro may appreciate the drop beek in trip, but the suggestion PEACE LORID, who has the makings of a decent hendicupper over tendes if his jumping holds up.

2222 NO MORE HARSLE (80) (BF) Mrs M Percley 6 11 10

861-01 STEPMS/DEBOY (80) (DT) R Curis 9 11 10

POP-P) COOLEST BY PHAR (20) Mrs P Ford 7 11 4 ... O MePhant (5)
343-P HOPE THARCH (102 (20) A Hobbs 11 14 ... O MePhant (5)
11-28 (NOCK LEADER (22) (D) O Sherwood 7 11 4 ... I Obstome
11-29 (NOCK STAR (116) C Kolen 8 11 4 ... L Harvey
(CP) PP LIMER BCY (84) J McCorroche 9 11 4 ... L Harvey
(LILISP LYDEBROOK (11) M Multireaux 10 11 4 ... S Wysm
PF RSU MR PERRUPP (8) (D) Lord ryone 8 11 4 ... S Wysm
PF RSU MR PERRUPP (8) (D) Lord ryone 8 11 4 ... S Wysm
10 (200 B HINOLISKI (24) (D) B Carbbidge 11 11 4 ... Gary Lyces
21-0 THARS NO ANSWER (25) (D) P Derce 10 11 4 ... Minguin
10 (250 B HINOLISKI (24) (D) B Carbbidge 11 11 4 ... September (5)
12 PS-4-2 THE CAMPOORDAN (239) O O'Neil 6 11 4 ... V Settlary
14 POS-5 MIOONLIGHTER (8) C Jackson 9 10 12 ... O Burrows (5)
14 ETTING: 9-4 No More Hassle, 9-2 Koock Leader, 11-2 Stepastichboy. 4.00 KILVERTS HOTEL HAY ON WYE MAIDEN HURDLE (E) (Div II) \$2,000 added 2m — 14 processes — BETTING: 9-4 No More Hassis, 9-2 Knock Leader, 11-2 Stepseidehoy, 13-2 The Campdonian, 8-1 Nirvena Prisce, 14-1 Knock Star, 20-1 Hope Thatch, Mr Parkopp, 25-1 others There are stamina doubts over No More Hassle and Knock Leader, and a fitness doubt over Ninvana Prince, so the best bet may be STEPASIDEBOY He is proven over the trip and entitled to improve on the form he showed when successful on his chase debut at Windsor. 3.00 HENLEY HALL GOLD CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (E) \$4,000 added mares 2m

4.30 WEATHERBYS HC RACE PLANNER HUNTER CHASE (H) 52,000 added 3m DADO O ARABIAN BOLD (212) (C) F Machines 11 12 0 . Mr P Flynn (7 32289' CAPE COTTAGE (820) (CD) D Caro S 12 b ...Mr J M Princherd (8 PFP33- CELTIC ASSETY (\$55) (ID) Mrs C Hardings 11 12 0 Mir D S Jones (3 (5544- GEORGE ASHFORD (\$34) (D) P Johnson 9 12 0 Mir G Henever (\$

4/24P- KEANO (284) (D) J.R. Suthern 10 20 ... Miles E. James 33-45P NATINE RAMBELER (111) (D) Mrs. A Proc 9 20 Mrs. S Blocks 0420P PRIDEWOOD GOLDING (186) (D) E.A. Thomas 2 2 0 ... 212-5 TITUS ANDRONICUS (P24) (D) (SF) Mss H Iving 12 12 0

FORM VERDICT CSLTIC ABBEY is the class act here, and it was only last summer that he was numbing right up to a mark of 130 in handscap chases for Venetia Williams. Even if not at the same level cap crasses ut versus transits, ever into a present and today, he is still the one to best. Cape Cottage goes well here and could make a race of it, while Titus Andronicus is an

1	<u> </u>	WINST	ANSIOW	NOVICE	HUKULE
Ŀ	<u> </u>	L (CLAS	S E) £3,00	NOVICE Dadded 2m	15f 110yds
1) Η Dety 6 π 5	
Ż	\$1027	BLUESHAAN	(60) C Nama 6	Π5	il Hager
3	31	MITHAK (US	A) (335) (CD) D	Nicholson 5 11 5	R Johnson
4	0-035	BETJEMÁN (114 R Philips	302	J McDennott (7)
5	1/12	BORO SOVE	REGN (27) (87)	N Handeson 6 10	2 J R Kemanagh
6	14-	COMMANC!	E LAW (302) K	Bailey 6 10 12	. , i (1)
7	50-404	FOUNTAIN B	MNK (13) J So	gang 5 17 12	A Maguire 8
8	- D-	GONE BALLI	STIC (SSS) DIA	ichaisan 6 10 12	R Macooy
Ð	RES-	KILGAL (258	A Hollingswort	h 6 10 12	Gary Lyons
10				oman 71012	
Ħ	20P	HESHER (S)	Mrs J Piman !	102	D Leaby
12	05	NICELY REL	XED (118) 0 5	herwood 6 10 12	J Osborne
19				61012	
14				on-Davies 5 10 12.	
15				Villams 6 10 12	
16		TONDAY HOT	SPUR (105) I Y	Williams 8 10 12	© Yomay
7	•			2	
18	6-OP			\$7107	
_	_	• •	- 18 declar	red -	
BE	TING: 8	-1 Boro Sover	eigo, 4-1 With	k, 6-1 Commench	e Lene, 15-2 Baith

FORM VERDICT MITHAK and Bluesheen are good-class winners who should again run well again under penalties. Mithek is just preferred. Boro Sovereign also has to be respected, while Commenche Law makes similar appeal on bumper form.

se Boy, Bluesteen, 10-1 Nicely Relaxed, Strong Cabinet, 12-1 Fam

agers, administrators and jour-Shearer, who was telephoned by David Davies, the acting chief executive, before Hoddle's departure, added that he thought the former coach

should not have been forced out. "I was amazed at the reaction to what he was reported to have said. If he said the same in May, as he is supposed to have done, why was there not a reaction then? I feel sorry for everyone upset by his comments but I know he didn't mean to offend them." The Newcastle striker, who was appointed captain by Hod-

dle, said he had spoken to the coach after his departure and "thanked him for what he had done for me". Hoddle had returned the compliment and said Shearer, had rung most of the players to thank them for their efforts under him. "I've a lot of respect for him, I felt he was a good coach," added

Howard Wilkinson, the man who has temporarily taken the reins for today's Wembley friendly with France, had "tried to make everyone feel at ease," Shearer said. "He's cracked a few jokes and done a good job."

The England captain added: '[The senior players] have had a few meetings with him, he's asked our opinion and told us he wants to use our experience

International football: World's No 1 player finds peace at last after shrugging off the pressures of expectation



The multi-honoured Zinedine Zidane prepares for his first appearance at Wembley tonight

Zidane's plan is to set new goals

THE HAUNTED look that BY ADAM SZRETER accompanied Zinedine Zidane prior to the World Cup has disappeared. After an unconvincing performance during Euro 96 and two losing European Cup finals with Juventus, the player every Frenchman hoped was the new Michel Platini had plenty to prove at France 38. After being sent off in the second match it did not look good, but, fortunately for Zidane, the scriptwriter provided the hero with a triumphant return and two goals in the final

against Brazil Since then he has won just about every honour the game has to bestow, including European and World Player of the Year, and tonight a full house at Wembley will have the pleasure of his company for the very first

After training at the stadium yesterday, Zidane seemed understandably happy with life despite the indifferent form that he has shown for Juventus lately that has coincided with the club's post-Christmas nation of the club's long-serv ing manager, Marcello Lippi.

Zidane would not be drawn on that yesterday, but he and his French team-mate Didier Deschamps were rumoured to be among those Juventus players unsettled by Lippi's original decision to retire at the end of the season – they felt the new nan, the former Parma coach Carlo Ancelotti, should have een installed straight away.

The injury to Alessandro Del Piero early in the season hardly helped matters either, putting extra pressure on Zidane, who admitted to feeling mentally drained after the World Cup.

A gifted individual whose work-rate suggests he wants nothing more than to be part of

me of the modern game. He is the first to admit he is no Platini but now that he has achieved something even Platini never did, he feels entitled to relax and expect others to accept him

"I am very happy because everyone has an aim in life and ese honours are the best thing that could happen to me," "Football is a passion for

me and my aim is to reach the highest level but, having done that, it is not a pressure, only a pleasure. I won't be losing any sleep over it but there will always be more to aim for - I'm too young to have no more

Marseilles. His brother Farid still lives there, as well as his closest friends who keep "Zizou" abreast of all the results from his very first junior club. Zidane began his professional career with nearby Cannes after training at their foot-balling academy, and then moved on to Bordeaux and finally Juventus, scoring two late goals on his international debut in the meantime to earn

Czech Republic. However, going into the World Cup finals Zidane carried not only the footballing hopes of a nation but all the baggage that goes with his north African heritage in a country where, at times it seems, racial harmony

the French a 2-2 draw with the

'It meant a lot to see kids of all different colours with the French flag painted on their faces during the World Cup'

In Italy, of course, Zidane still has his critics. With Del Piero missing. Juventus are looking for a new leader, a high profile figure both on and off the pitch.

Zidane's way, however. An essentially private, almost shy, individual, away from football he spends his time with his family in their home up in the hills that surround Turin. As a player he is undemon-

strative, but highly effective. "He is the brain of France," Pele has said of him. "You see the games they played without him [during the World Cup]. They had a problem. He is one of the controllers of the game - good ball control, good in

His real name is Yazide Zidane, the son of Algerian immigrants, and he was brought up in the rough Castel-

is only slightly more developed than vegetarian cuisine. "The fans expect something magical every time and it's impossible," Zidane said after France were booed off following an unconvincing performance against Scotland in a World Cup warmup match in St Etienne. "But when we don't play well, they say we are not wholeheartedly for the cause."

He was castigated for saying that, and there is a certain irony in the fact that his dismissal during the World Cup was as a result of stamping on the Saudi Arabian captain, an act of petulance that was completely out of character. But the ultimate success of a team spearheaded by Zidane and full of other second-generation émigrés was one in the eye for

the right wing in France.

because I am always happy lane neighbourhood of northern when I see all kinds of people kicking a ball together in the street," Zidane said yesterday, adding a dash of diplomacy to his mild Mediterranean mansee kids of all different colours with the French flag painted on their faces during the World

> With so many of that team now playing in England, and captain Deschamps this week hinting that he would like to become the next – having lost his place in the Juventus side this season - the obvious mestion is whether Zidane himself will ever sign for an English club. "The Premiership is becoming more and more important, it is true, but I'm perfectly happy in Italy at the mo-ment," he said. "That doesn't

mean I'll never play in England,

but Spain attracts me as well." Of the French squad Roger Lemerre has assembled for the attempt at a first victory at Wembley, only Deschamps and Laurent Blanc were in the team when the countries last met there seven years ago. Alan Shearer, who scored, and Martin Keown were in the England side that won 2-0. "I've only ever seen Wembley on the television, and the grass always looks extraordinary," the 26year-old Zidane said.

"I'm very happy to be here, I just wish I was in better form but the thing for me right now is to keep my head up. This is a friendly match and even though we want people to know it was not just luck that we won the World Cup, the most important thing is that the occasion is a pleasure for everybody. Maybe for England, with 80,000 people urging them on, it will not be such a pleasure but for us, even more than the result, the thing is to feel proud of our-

Shearer

comes to

Hoddle's

ALAN SHEARER may be the

England captain but he said

yesterday that he had not yet

been included in the consulta-

tion process to determine

Glenn Hoddle's successor as

England coach, nor did he think

me," the Newcastle United

striker insisted. "My job is to

play football - I am not a politi-

cian, I'm not a chief executive,

I'm not paid to make those de-

The Football Association has

intimated that senior interna-

tional players will be among a

whole range of people consulted over the post. They

also intend to speak to man-

"It has nothing to do with

defence

BY GLENN MOORE

he should be.

Dixon prepared to savour his 'second England debut'

LEE DIXON has been in football so long that Blondie were No 1 in the charts when he was a teenager at Burnley. Nothing, you would think, could surprise the Arsenal right-back as he approaches his 35th birthday next month. But, on Monday night, as he tried to help with his children's homework, came a phone call which left him dumbfounded.

Dixon and his son, Josh, were struggling over some welcome respite. The voice on as an international player. the line claimed he was John Gorman, assistant to the former England coach, Glenn Hoddle. Gorman said he was helping the interim manager, Howard Wilkinson, to prepare a picture of Howard Wilkinfor tonight's friendly against son. I said: 'It was him', and my France at Wembley and told the son looked at it and said: 'What dubious defender that "the boss" wanted to speak to him.

"I thought it was one of my mates winding me up," Dixon said yesterday: "So I said to him: 'Go on then, put him on.' When it really was Howard Wilkinson it took my breath away. It was

Dixon's call-up comes five and a half years since he won the last of his 21 caps in Graham Taylor's final match in Nigel Winterburn also likely to charge, against San Marino. He be on the bench. "It'll be strange

The phone call that led to Arsenal's veteran full-back returning to the international arena tonight surprised him and confused his two children, too. By Phil Shaw

face the world champions. If the pace of events took even a much-decorated veteran by surprise, imagine how his children reacted. Josh is 11 and Olivia nine, so neither has

any real memory of their father

was in the starting line-up to

"When I came off the phone I was saying: "I can't believe it'," me who it was and there was a newspaper lying open showing would he want to phone you

"I told him he wanted dad to join up with the England squad. My daughter had a tear in her eve and said: 'Does that mean you're not going to play for Arsenal any more?

Seaman, Dixon, Adams, Keown...the first four names on Wilkinson's first England teamsheet are all from Highbury, with

morning and by lunchtime he offside," said Dixon, shooting a self-mocking arm into the air in formidable pairing."

the infamous Arsenal style. Joking aside, there are clear echoes of 1934, when the England team who beat Italy 3-2 in the "Battle of Highbury" contained seven Gunners. This time, however, there may also be three of Dixon's club-mates - Emmanuel Petit, Patrick

We used to have a laugh about people saying we were too old but we're bored with it now

Vieira and Nicolas Anelka - in the opposition ranks.

Asked whether the presence of Petit and Vieira in the Double winners' midfield had played a part in prolonging his time with Arsenal and reviving his Eng-land career. Dixon said: "It does help if you've got a second defence in front of you, and

past two seasons. They're a

The advent of another Frenchman, Arséne Wenger, has also contributed to the extraordinary longevity of the Arsenal back four (or five, as Dixon calls it in deference to Steve Bould). Far from being set in their ways, the fact they were all thirtysomethings when he arrived made them more receptive to his advice on, for example, diet and drinking.

"Arsene got a few players just at the right time. We were in a position where we thought: 'Let's listen to what he has to say because it might help us get another few years out of our careers.' A younger player might have been flippent and said: 'We're not changing.' We're living proof that looking

after yourself does work. "Personally, I've always been relatively clean living. Having kids helps – by 10 o'clock Γ've had it and I'm ready for bed. But more experienced, so I'll try to it's not just a physical thing. You savour every moment. It might have to have the determination. the desire, to do it again and

because you've got to be up for it every week. The fans won't accept anything less."

Arsenal's run without conceding a goal stands at 9hr 24min, and Gianluca Vialli recently compared their defence with the world-class Milan back four marshalled by Franco Baresi. Dixon acknowledges such praise as pleasing, yet insists that he no more droots over the goals-against column than listens to those who periodically suggest their time

We used to laugh about people saying we were too old," he said. "But that was about five years ago and we're bored with it now. You [the press] are going to get it right one year, so keep going."
While "Keep Going" might

well serve as the Arsenal defenders' motto, Dixon had long since given up looking for his name in England squads or thinking: "Tve got a chance if he gets injured." Tonight, therefore, will be like a second debut, nine years after his first, during Bobby Robson's reign. "The difference this time is that I'm savour every moment. It might not happen again."

His recall was a clear signal



Lee Dixon has every reason to smile as as he approaches his 35th birthday and a 22nd cap David Ashdown

exponent of the more physically punishing wing-back role, Dixon feels he is more effective as an orthodox full-back, albeit with a licence to attack.

marauding runs, he comes up against Manu Petit, so much the better. When they were trained with his "new" colon the team coach, having all Manu and Patrick have proagain and again. The Premier-that Wilkinson will play four at parting after last Saturday's vic-Dixon it may just beat another leagues at Bisham Abbey in the four of us defenders calling for tected us magnificently over the ship is mentally demanding the back rather than the three tory at West Ham, Dixon, never night of maths.

favoured by Hoddle. No mean suspecting he would be involved, called to the dynamo from Dieppe: "See you on Thursday, after England have given you a good hiding."

ith a licence to attack. Petit gave a Gallic shrug And if, on one of his and said: "I don't care - we've won the World Cup." However friendly or fractious their Wembley reunion proves, for

Keane turns his attention to Republic cause

Paraguay at Lansdowne Road best players for the 1999 tourwith his club versus country nament which lasts for almost dilemma resolved.

The 18-year-old Keane, who Republic's answer to Michael Owen, has also been picked for of my mind for a long time and the Irish Under-20s squad to I didn't want to let anyone play in the World Youth Cup down It's a big relief for me and are furious that the talented the job in hand, which is this £6m-rated player will miss a match. It is important because potentially crucial stage of the we have the chance to get

However, the Football Association of Ireland, whose team next month. finished third in the World

an entire month.

Keane said; "I'm just glad the is viewed in Dublin as the decision has been taken out of my hands. It's been in the back finals in Nigeria in April. Wolves now I can just concentrate on together before the Euro 2000 qualifier against Macedonia

hampton Wanderers striker. adamant that the Under-20s a lot I can do to help the club goes into tonight's Republic of squad manager. Brian Kerr, in April, but there's still a long Ireland friendly against must be allowed to call up his way to go in the League programme and while I'm away I'll just have to keep my fingers crossed for the lads at Molineux and wish them all

> Wolves, as well as Blackburn Rovers, Leeds United and Everton - who are also affected by having front-line players like Damien Duff, Stephen McPhail and Richard Dunne in the Irish youth squad – have all their young stars withdrawn. But the FAI chief executive, Bernard O'Byrne, yesterday "Wolves are important, too, confirmed his association's pol- McCarthy.

ROBBIE KEANE, the Wolver- Youth Cup two years ago, are and if I'm in Nigeria there's not icy, which conflicts entirely with that of the England caretakercoach and Football Association technical director, Howard regular Premier League player will be forced to travel to Nigeria with their squad.

Meanwhile, Keane and Mick McCarthy, the manager of the Republic's senior side, can focus on using tonight's friendly as preparation for the next Euro 2000 qualifier against Macedonia in Skopje on 27 March. "It is vital we had entered official pleas to have a match this month to fill the gap between the [Macedonia game and the last one in Yugoslavia in November," said

agers, as well as McCarthy, have encountered problems in securing the release of top Wilkinson, who has said that no players from the Premiership and Nationwide League for friendly games at this time of

> But although McCarthy has lost Liverpool's Steve Staunton, Blackburn's Jeff Kenna and Derby County's Rory Delap through injury, he has to make only two changes from the starting line-up in Belgrade - and one of those is Keane, who missed that 1-0 defeat with a damaged ankle. McCarthy said: "I was still thinking of bringing in a few different faces but decided in the lately.

Previous Republic man- end that we should go for con-

"It is marvellous to see all the lads turning up with a great attitude of wanting to play for their country, no matter what the match. I can understand why club managers have been dubious in the past about letting them come over but the players have always been mentally right about it.

"It is a great boost for me to have all these players available again. Kenny Cunningham and Mark Kinsella were rival captains in the Charlton-Wimbledon game on Monday night and I'm told Kenny has been out with a back injury

turned up ready to play and so did Steve Staunton, even though we have had to send him back to Liverpool because of a calf injury. It is typical of the desire all the lads have to do well for Ireland,"

Staunton's place at left back will be taken by the in-form Leeds defender Ian Harte and although McCarthy is certain to make other, experimental changes during the game he has the opportunity now to enhance the spirit and teamwork which brought impressive victories in the first two European qualifiers against Croatia and Malta before the narrow

"But both of them have

lan is Falcons fail goals to fly in land of Magpies

THERE WAS one shining piece THERE was one summer place of irony at Kingston Park last if irony at rangeous a surninistered to the bold Sir John Hall's pipe dream of creating an all-powerful sporting empire

In the trophy cabinet at the in the woping ons stood tangible evidence hat, in one respect at least, the ugby club Sir John and his t, amily firm fashioned after buyng Newcastle Gosforth in Sepa tember 1995 has succeeded where the cornerstone of their in trumbling domain has conspicuously failed. The Falcons may have be-

- 1- come surplus to the sporting - tig equirements of Sir John's lieuenants - his son, Douglas, and is long-time associate, Fredile Shepherd - but they are still. echnically, rulers of the Engish rugby union roost as holdars of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. The last time www.vewcastle United, the Magies of St James' Park, were perched on top of the English ootball tree was in 1927.

Sir John, though, committed ı grave error of judgement in presuming that success would attract the fan base needed to inance his rugby dream team. lyneside does have a history of ugby union excellence - Gosorth, the club from which the Falcons were formed, won the John Player Cup in 1976 and 1977 - but it has no tradition of copular support.

Crowds packed the 7,000apacity Kingston Park as the " laicons won the title last season but that was just about the imit of Tyneside's interest in Newcastle's tunnel vision has ruined Sir John Hall's dreams of building a sporting empire. By Simon Turnbull

the sport. And, more to the point, it was well short of the 10,000 break-even figure.

An experimental switch to Gateshead International Stadium earlier this season was abandoned after the financial embarrassment of a 12,000-capacity arena less than half full. And the "sold out" signs have not been needed since the Falcons returned to their home nest.

It was not what Sir John envisaged when he stood in the centre circle at St James' Park with Rob Andrew at his side in September 1995, and proclaimed: "The potential for rugby in the North-east is enormous. We can make this club one of the foremost in Europe."

The trouble was the majority of folk on Tyneside viewed the sporting world in black and white. When features about the rugby club appeared in Newcastle United's match-day programme and monthly magazines the Toon Army made it clear they did not want to pay to read about another sport.

Sir John's big mistake was believing he could build a sporting Barcelona on Tyneside. Once he started to transform the fortunes of Newcastle United, with not a little help from Kevin Keegan, he took his eve off the ball and cast it towards the multi-sporting clubs he had visited and greatly admired on European travels.

"Barcelona have 100,000 mem-

bers and Sporting Lisbon have 70.000." he said. "That's what we want. There will be a sense of belonging. People will cherish their membership cards."

What he neglected to consider was that Barcelona and Sporting Lisbon have a long tradition of sporting diversification, just as Tyneside has a long tradition of popular sporting tunnel vision. Barcelona, Sir John failed to grasp, too, is an exception because its appeal transcends mere sporting boundaries.

It is, as the club motto states "more than a club", It is a focal point for Catalans, for a people long oppressed in a way the Geordie "nation" of which Sir John spoke, never have.

"Over the next five years we will be adding more sports, step by step." Sir John said the day he took Andrew and the rugby club under the Magpies' wing. Less than four years later, they are being off-loaded, step by step.

The ice-hockeying Newcastle Cobras were sold last summer and the basketballing Newcastle Eagles, like the Falcons, are up for sale now. Soon even the Magpies will have flown the Halls' nest. Their proposed sale of New-

castle United to the television cable firm NTL will be the final act in the fall of an empire that never was. Even the trophy on show at Kingston Park will be



Best of Tynes: (from left) Former Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan with Sir John Hall and Falcons' director of rugby, Rob Andrew North News

City's American dream investment

MANCHESTER CITY'S new mystery backers will be an American investment firm worth £50bn.

The Boston-based United Asset Management Corporation are the backers behind talks to buy a 30 per cent stake in City. Their British arm is the Glasgow firm Murray Johnston, who have a stake in Aberdeen plus shares in Enic, who own part of Rangers. Representatives from

UAM and Murray Johnston are close to finalising a package worth around £10m with more available for players, possibly as much as £20m. Blackburn's manager, Brian

By Alan Nixon

Kidd, is turning to one of the best prospects in Scotland - Burton O'Brien - under the noses of his old club Manchester United. Kidd hopes to make the St Mirren midfielder his fifth signing after talks yesterday.

United aim to reward Kidd's former boss, Alex Ferguson, for his success by making him the best-paid manager in Britain with a three-year deal worth a reported 55m. Ferguson is also organising a blockbuster testimonial next season which could raise as much as £3m to be split

between himself and charities of

Newcastle's newcomer Silvio Maric has laughed off two-yearold comments in which he is said to have insulted English women and food. The 24-year-old, signed from Croatia Zagreb last week, said his outburst, reported in a magazine in his country during the Champions' League qualifier between Newcastle and Zagreb, was not serious. "It was all a bit of a joke and should never have been in the paper," he said. "I wouldn't be moving to England

if I really meant it, would I?"

Fifa has stepped into the row

Meanwhile, Richmond have

Australian striker when they expected the £3m agreed at the time of the transfer. Celtic now say they will split the remaining £2.1m with Viduka's previous club, Melbourne Knights, and the player. Zagreb.

between Celtic and Maric's old

side over Mark Viduka's trans-

fer fee. Zagreb are furious that

the Scottish champions for-

warded only £900,000 for the

have complained to Fifa, who are expected to make a ruling soon. The former Tottenham and West Ham striker Ilie Dumitrescu has retired at the age

already angry about the delay,

of 30, ending his career where it started in 1987, at Steaua Bucharest. The World Cup striker was capped 58 times by Romania.

The Danish striker Bo Hansen is to join Bolton from Brondby for £1m, pending a medical. The 26-year-old, leading scorer for the Danish champions with 12 goals, has been a long-term target and impressed on a week's trial last month.

The former Dutch international Arie Haan is to take over PAOK Salonica. Haan is expected to sign an 18-month con-

Beaumont deals blow to Reform Group

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State of the state of

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'LANS BY the Rugby Football Inion Reform Group to slap a ote of no confidence on the wickenham management oard at a Special General ()((((()))) oming along nicely - they are reli on the way to securing the upport of the required 100 aember clubs – but other parts fibe dissident camp's grand denember clubs - but other parts ign are looking distinctly tatty. Vhile the Reform Group are ushing the name of Bill Beauont, a former England Grand lam captain, as a possible

> oard", the man himself wants o part of it. In fact, he would ather there were no SGM at all. "I've got a business to run

and apart from anything else, feeting next month may be I haven't got the time to get involved any deeper in rugby administration," said Beaumont. the chairman of England's national playing committee, yesterday. "My personal view is that we should avoid an SGM and sort out whatever problems we may have from the inside. I am not a member of the Reform Group, I have no links with them. I've never attended one nember of a new "emergency of their meetings and they have never contacted me." All of which will be of con-

siderable interest to clubs up theorists who fear that the

and down the country who have Reform Group's latest cam- were expelled from and rein-Group literature asking for SGM support, especially as one of the group's proposals concerns the immediate appointment of an emergency board comprising four named individuals: the RFU president Peter Trunkfield, the Reform Group president, Fran Cotton, the RFU chief executive, Francis Baron, and Beaumont. It is clear from Beaumont's stance that the only one of that quartet with any enthusiasm for yet another counter-revolution is Cotton, who quit the management board 10 months ago.

Nevertheless, conspiracy

been circulated with Reform paign is a thinly-veiled attempt stated to the competition in the been docked two Premiership to manoeuvre Cotton's old ally, space of 24 hours, and furious at points for failing to fulfil last Cliff Brittle, back into a position of power can rest easy. The for- club agenda being followed by mer RFU executive chairman. a central figure in English rugby's civil war until his year's SGM, the Reform Group removal from office last summer, has no intention of policies that would be pure returning to the fray according to the Reform Group secretary, Malcolm Ross. "Cliff does not want to be involved," Ross said. "He has retired from rugby administration with a clear conscience and while he is

> Aghast at the recent Five Nations fiasco, when England

ments, he will not be back."

upset at some recent develop-

WINALTINEY CORISIONET TO DE LINE DIT Brian Baister, who seized the chairmanship from Brittle at last want to drive through a set of anathema to the Premiership money men: the scrapping of the Mayfair Agreement currently underpinning the domestic game, the creation of an unspecified number of English "super teams" with a draconian limit on the numbers of foreign players and a new attempt to contract internationals to the union rather than their clubs.

ture with Harlequins, Richmond, denied use of their new Madejski Stadium venue because of an FA Cup tie involving Reading FC, were found to have unreasonably rejected anproaches by Quins to play the game elsewhere. Quins wanted to go ahead with the match at either the Athletic Ground or the Stoop Memorial Ground.

In South Africa, 12 non-white players were yesterday included in the country's four Super 12 squads for this season's tournament - an improvement on last year's contingent of two. final red.

current world No 1 defeated his former practice partner Alain Robidoux 6-1 but he missed an opportunity to write himself into Masters history by becoming only the second player in 25 years to compile a

maximum break.

ing too straight on the previous black, making his shot that much tougher. Higgins made a good attempt into the yellow pocket but the ball failed to

Higgins' fourth-frame century was the high spot of an undistinguished second-round game against his out-of-touch World No 12 Robidoux, down

to 45th on the provisional sports car worth £80,000 and the rankings, prevented a whitewash by making a colour clearance to snatch frame six on the

Norwegian **lavourites** in the lead

SKIING

HE NORWEGIANS Kjetil ındre Aamodt and Lasse Kjus oth made their moves yesteray in the first run of the slalom the men's combined event at www. World Alpine Ski Champi-ships at Vail, Colorado. Aamodt and Kjus overtook

witzerland's Bruno Kernen, ho led the downhill portion of ne competition on Monday. he combined times of those wo runs are added to the forthoming second run of the lalom in order to determine ne combined champion. Aamodt, who trailed Ker-

en by just 0.08sec in the downill, fashioned a quick slalom eat of 44.21 to move into over-Il first place with 1:57.73.

Kjus, who had stood third nd only 0.14sec behind Kernen, ras timed in 44.55 in the first lalom run and was second verall at 1:58.13. He lost some round on his team-mate, howver. falling 0.40 behind

Aamodt and Kjus dominated two combined events on the orld Cup circuit this season nd were the odds-on wourites coming into these hampionships.

Switzerland's Paul Accola, ixth after the downhill, moved to third with the secondistest slalom run time of 44.15, nd had a total time of 1:58.53. Christian Mayer, of Austria. ad the quickest slalom time of 3.78 and was in fourth place

rith 1:58.76.

ATHLETICS

Kipchoge Keino, the middle distance Kipchoge Keino, the middle distance runner who won several Olympic and Commonwealth gold medals in the 1960s and 70s, is set to replace Charles Mukora as chairman of the National Olympic Committee of Kenya. Mukora resigned from the International Olympic Committee last month in the aftermath of the IOC bribery scandal. Mukora then quit his NOCK post after it became apparent that he had lost the support parent that he had lost the support of local sports organisations.

of local sports organisations.
Wille Molo, the South African
marathon runner, shot and wounded himself in the foot while patrolling
his ranch near Underberg in the east
of the country for cattle rustlers. The
wound will keep him from entering
the South African marathon championships in Cape Town later this
month. BASKETBALL

NBA: Charlotte 94 Miami 91; Indiana 95 Cleveland 89; Detroit 106 Washington 103; Orlando 107 Boston 90; La Laisera 80 San Antonio 75; Houston 99 Denver 80; Portland 95 Vancouver 76.

BIATHLON The start of the 35th World Championships was postponed vesterday for the fourth consecutive day because of severe cold. The two sprint classes, 7.5km for women and the nen's 10km, both initially scheduled for Saturday, were moved to today. Yesterday morning, the temperature was at -36C at the coldest spots in Kontiolahti in eastern Finland, and -26C on the shooting range. The competition limit is set at -20C.

BOXING

Herbie Hide has withdrawn from his World Boding Organisation world heavyweight title defence against Orlin Norris in Newcastle on Satur-Orlin Norris in Newcastle on Satur-day, because he is suffering from a skin allergy. It is the second time the light has fallen through, with Nor-rls pulling out of scheduled bouts last year due to knee injuries. Frank Maloney, the manager, has signed the Ulster fighters Brian Magee and David Lowry, who both competed at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, to his pro-fessional stable. Magee, a middleweight, was a bronze medallist in Malaysia.

The Danish rider Michael Claus Moller of the TVM team yesterday won the third leg of the Mallorca tour as Spain's Jose Luis Rebollo took the overall lead. Moller covered the 142.2 kflometers in a time of 3hr

SPORTING DIGEST

33min 28 sec. Finishing second and with the same time was the Spaniard Francisco Cabello of the Kelme Costa Blanca team. Rebollo of ONCE-Deutsche Bank came in with ONLE-Deutsche bank came in with the pack 21 seconds later, in the descent of the Puig Mayor mountain, the last of three climbs and located 17 kilometers from the finish line, Cabello and Moller broke away with the former in the lead, but Moller won in a sprint finish. DARTS

DARTS
DUTCH OPEN (Delden) Men's semifinals: T Hankey (Eng) bt R Barneveld
(Netri) 2-1: R Widdows (Eng) bt M King
(Eng) 2-0. Finals: Hankey bt Widdows 4-2.
Morsess's semi-finals: T Guiliver (Eng)
bt C Howatt (Eng) 2-0; F Hoenselaar
(Netri) bt S Colclough (Eng) 2-0. Finals
Guiliver bt Hoenselaar 3-2. Men's pairs
finals: T Hankey and M Chapman (Eng) bt
A Jenkins and A Fordham (Eng) 3-1.
Women's pairs finals: F Hoerselaar
(Neth) and S Colclough (Eng) bt M DeBoer and K Overman (Neth) 3-0.

The Football League, the Premier League and Bass Breweries have agreed to allow Sky Television to show the Manchester United-Arseand Premiership game live on Wednesday 17 February despite the fact that the game clashes with the satellite TV's original transmission of the Worthington Cup semi-final second leg between Leicester and Sunderland.

SUNDER LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Pressiership: Charlon 2 Wimbledon 0 (Progle 37, Blackwell og 68). Tusmeuts Scottists (op Third-round replay: Post-poned: Ross County v Chydebank. FA Um-

bro Trophy Fourth-round replays: St Al-bars 2 Asiston Urd 1: Steverage 0 Chel-rentam 1 (abandoned at hall-time; snow). Dr Martens League Southern Division: Dartford 0 Newport (loW) 2. Pontins League Presider Division: Preston 0 Marchester Urd 1. Postpomed: Stoke v Un-erpool. League Cup Group Timo: Hulf 2 Barnsley 0. Auron Instrance Combination First Division: Arsenal 0 Brighton 0; Fui-

SKIING

The Olympic champion Mario Reiter's hopes of winning the men's combined gold medal at the Alpine world championships in Vail, Colorado ended yesterday when the Austrian straddled a gate on the first lee of the slalom.

SNOOKER BENSON AND HEDGES MASTERS (Wambley) Second round: J Higgins (Sco) bt A Robidoux (Can) 6-1 TENNIS

TENNIS

ATP SYRASE OPEN (San Jose; Calif)
Singles, first round; A Agassi (US) bi I
Woodbridge (Aus) 6-2 6-1; M Chang (US)
bi F Meigen (Bra) 6-3 6-2; C Ruud (Nor)
bi M Puerta (Arg) 6-2 4-6 6-3; S Laneau
(Can) bi M Zabareta (Arg) 6-2 6-1: P Goldstein (US) bi C Costa (Sq) 6-4 4-6 6-4; C
Woodruff (US) bi R Agenor (Halti) 2-6 6-2
6-3; F Squillari (Arg) bi A Portas (Sp) 6-1
3-6 6-2.
ST PETPERSBLING MIENTS OPEN Storales

FOOTBALL 7.30 unless stated EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP EIGHT

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES

Ross County v Cydebank

RYSBAN LEASUE Third Division: Ting

v Aveley Mendanel Tropby second

round: Harlow v Edgware isthmian

League Cup second round: Cheshem v

Dagenham & Redbridge genham a neum-co-MECAD LEAGUE CUP Section of the Control of Emiley, The

ICE HOCKEY

leg of the slation: A getter in the institute of the slation:

ALPINE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Mall, Colorado) Men's combined down
idli: 1 8 Kernen (Swit) 1 min 13.44sec: 2

K A Aamodt (Nor) 1:13.52: 3 L Kius (Nor)

1:13.58, Disquailfied: A Freshwater (GB).

ST PETERSBURG MEN'S OPEN Singles, first round: F Jonsson (Swe) bt J Kroslak

(Rom) bt J Apell (Swe) 6-3 3-5 6-4; J Farango (LIS) bt A Calurava (So) 4-6 6-3 6-3: M-K Goeliner (Ger) bt D Sanguinett (If 6-2 7-6: D Hrbary (Skousk) bt A Veinea (Rom) 6-3 3-6 6-3; S Grosjean (Fr) bt M Damm (Cz Rep) 6-7 7-6 6-3; M Gustalos son (Swe) bt I Kunition (Rus) 5-1 3-6 7-5; D Prinosi (Ger) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-4 3-6 7-5; D Roman (Rus) bt G Ranas (Arg) 6-2 6-3; J Siemennk (Neth) bt M Kohlman (Ger) 6-3 6-4.

NORIA WROMEN'S CUP (Prostejon, Cx Rup) Singless, first retunds: R Dragomir (Rom) bt K Hrdikchon (Cz Rup) 6-3 3-6 6-4; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt C Cristra (Rom) 6-3 4-6 6-3; L Golaras (Ir) bt A-6 Sadot (Fr) 4-6 6-4 6-2; M Shaughnessy (US) bt M Weingamer (Ger) 5-7 6-4 6-3; A Cochetoux (Fr) bt N Tauzlat (Fr) 6-0 7-6; N Dechy (Fr) bt N Pastilowa (Cz Rep) bt N Sanchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-0 7-5; D Chiadhova (Cz Rep) bt E Weigner (Ger) 6-2 6-0; D Wan Roost (Bel) bt A Barna (Ger) 6-4 7-5; S Farina (Ir) bt A Cartsson (Swe) 6-2 6-3; B Rittner (Ger) bt K Habsaudon (Stowal) 7-6 5-7 6-3.

(Ger) by K Palosuolova (Slovak) 7-6 5-7 6-3.

127A WOMEN'S TOURNAMEN'T (Birmingham) Singles, first romote L Ah (Devon) bt L Relly (Sco) 6-1 6-3; K De Weille (Neth) bt M Zdenohcova (Cz Rep) 6-3 6-3; N Egoroua (Rus) bt M Escrbar (Sp) 7-5 6-2; I Choudhary (Carubs) by M Roustsaal (Neth) 6-3 6-7 (2-7) 6-1; M Minglache (Rom) bt H Matthews (Berks) 6-4 6-1; B Karpensonli (Fr) bt E Mohar (Nam) 6-2 6-1; A Bachmann (Ger) bt J Osman (Sussea) 6-1 2-6 6-1; L Latuner (Warwels) bt M Lamarre (Fr) 6-4 6-3, S De Beer (SA) bt S Wolfhandt (Swe) 6-4 6-2; E Dippoo (It) br L Perluns (Durham & Cleveland) 6-4 6-2; Lutrova (Rus) bt K Warnet-Holland (Dorset) 6-4 6-2; T Obziler (Sar) bt C Kraemer (Ger) 6-2 6-2; S De Wille (Bel) bt M Radu (Rom) 7-6 7-5; B Bruls (Neth) bt D Asersio (Swit) 5-7 6-3 6-3; L Jeffs (Oxon) bt C Schuumans (Bel) 4-6 6-2 8-2; S Erre (Fr) bt N Cahana (Isr) 6-2 6-2.

derbury. UNIURY SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Pagham v East Preston. NORTHERN COUNTIES LAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Hallam v Eccleshill Utd. JENSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Ipswich Wanderers v Sudbury

THE TIMES IN YOUTH CUP Fourth THE TIMES FA VOUTH CUP Fourth round: Chelsea v Newcastie: Nottingham Forest v Sunderland, PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Botton v Sheffled Wed (7.0); Manchester City v Port Valle (7.0); Tranmere v Wolverhampton (7.15). Second Division: Huddersfleid v Scarborough (7.0); Lincoln v York (7.0) (at Lincoln Uld FC). Tald Division: Chester v Rochale (2.0); Chester fleid v Scunthorpe (2.0); Hull v Wigan (2.0). League Cup Group Fleet Oldham v Stoke (7.0), Group Sibtt Notts County v Bradford (2.0) (at Farsley Ceht FC).

reptag: Hucknali v Emiey. Third-rog reptag: Gainsborough Trinky v Blyth. DR MARTENS LEAGUE Southern I vision: Brackley v Baldock.

Southampton v Oxford; Brighton v Mili-wall (2.0) (at Milhwall FC); Wimbledon v WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Pre-paler Division: Cray Wanderers v Can-

> ALLIED DUNBAR
> PREMERSHEP ONE
> CASHE V Richmond (7.30)
> WELSH MATIONAL LEAGUE Neath v Lianelli (7,15)

CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University

RUGBY UNION

BASKETBALL UNI-BALL TROPHY Semi-finals first leg: Derby Storm v Lekester Riders (8.0): Sheffield Sharks v Manchester Gi-ants (7.30) (or Ponds Forge ISC).

ICE HOCKEY

Higgins fluffs chance of maximum break

JOHN HIGGINS left the arena with mixed feelings yesterday 1995 put him into the quarterfinals of the Benson and Hedges Masters.

The world champion and

Compiling a 147 wins a highest-break prize of £18,000 but Higgins missed the 15th and

Tyson lawyers consider appeal

MIKE TYSON'S lawyers are considering whether to risk an appeal of his one-year sentence for assaulting two motorists. Tyson, who spent his fourth

full day in protective custody at Montgomery County, Maryland iail, was sentenced last Friday for kicking one man and striking another after a traffic accident in August

The former heavyweight champion remained in a private cell "for his own protection" and cannot ask for a bond hearing

BOXING unless an appeal is filed, said

prosecutor Douglas Gansler. The sentence by District Court Judge Stephen Johnson could mean the end of the career of the 32-year-old boxer. Tyson's lawyers must de-

cide within 30 days of the sentencing whether his career would be further jeopardised by an appeal. A Circuit Court judge could then decide not to accept the no-contest plea and

order a trial by jury. If found guilty. Tyson would again be subject to Maryland sentencing guidelines that call for a jail term of three to seven years.

In addition, a conviction would worsen Tyson's standing in Indiana and Nevada. Indiana authorities must decide whether Tyson violated his probation for a 1992 rape conviction. and Nevada boxing authorities could revoke Tyson's boxing licence for the second time in

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HENMAN'S WARNING SHOTS P25 • WARREN FIGHTS BACK P22

International football: Wilkinson trusts in experience and a change of tactics for the visit of the world champions

England search for new belief

BY GLENN MOORE Football Correspondent

AS A SUCCESSION of England managers have found, usually to their cost, there is a lot more to the job than just winning matches. However, that remains the bottom line and this evening we shall discover if Howard Wilkinson, who has carried himself well in his week as caretaker England coach, can do that.

It will not be a fair test. Wilkinson has stepped in at a difficult time and will have had less than six hours on the training pitch to prepare for the most daunting of opponents, France, the world champions.

It will, nevertheless, give an indication as to the nature of the

THEIR FIRST MATCH

WALTER WINTERBOTTOM (1946) N Ireland (a) won 7-2 (HI) SIR ALF RAMSEY (1963) France (a) lost 5-2 (ECO) "JOE MERCER (1974) Wales (a) won 2-0 (Hi) DON REVIE (1974) ovakia (h) won 3-0 (ECQ) 'RON GREENWOOD (1977) witzerland (h) drew 0-0 (F) Denmark (a) drew 2-2 (ECO) GRAHAM TAYLOR (1990) Hungary (h) won 1-0 (F) TERRY VENABLES (1994) Denmark (h) won 1-0 (F) GLENN HODDLE (1996) kdova (a) won 3-0 (WCQ)

fledgling relationship between Wilkinson and his players. Whether he inspires them;

length. He has made a good start, reverting to 4-4-2, with which most players are happier, especially the defence, and taking a series of common sense decisions. The call-up of Lee Dixon, who tonight starts his first international for five years, was one. So was a further request to Highbury for Nigel Winterburn, another in-form, solid professional.

The twice-capped 35-yearold left-back is included as cover in case Graeme Le Saux suffers a reaction to his foot injury

Michael Owen (far left) leads the England squad's regime of stretching exercises at Bisham Abbey yesterday, in preparation for tonight's meeting with France at Wembley

after yesterday's training, but it with a solid spine and a nice bal- and Bulgaria, and lost to Chile. raises the prospect of England a fielding back four-plus-goalkeeper drawn entirely from the Double-winners. Although the decision is forced by the absence of Gary Neville. Gareth Southgate, Sol Campbell and Andy Hinchcliffe, who was injured in training on Monday, it is surprising, given their collective form over the past decade, that it has not happened

has a Liverpool axis of Jamie Redknapo and Paul Ince - the Football Association having "forgotten" their previous ban on him - flanked by David Beckham and Darren Anderton. Alan Shearer, who will lead the line, said approvingly: "We should get some crosses in." Michael Owen is expected to partner him, though Wilkinson is considering playing Robbie

Fowler or Andy Cole instead. It is a decent-looking team,

ance. It needs to be, for France will be formidable opponents. They are unbeaten under their new coach, Roger Lemerre, having followed draws in Austria and Iceland with an impressive win in Russia and scrappy ones over Andorra and Morocco. The challenge of playing England at Wembley should bring the best from them, especially with several Eng-

lish-based players involved. They also have something to visits to Wembley have all ended in defeat without a French goal Lemerre himself played in the 5-0 drubbing of 1969, while Shearer made a goalscoring debut in the last visit, a 2-0 England win in 1992.

England's added motivation is a confidence-building victory at Wembley. In five matches there last year they beat Portugal and the Czech Republic

Belief needs to be restored before next month's Euro 2000 qualifier at home to Poland and Wilkinson said: "Sometimes you can go into a friendly being prepared to sacrifice a result.

This is not one of those times." Shearer added: "Confidence is 25 to 30 per cent of perfor-

SIR JOHN HALL, the sporting tycoon who broke rugby wide

open with one blow of his

mance and think how much confidence beating the world champions would give us."

It would also enhance Wilkinson's chances of being offered a job he is still unsure whether to covet. He was given his first taste yesterday of the juvenile abuse which goes with it when he woke to find The Mirror had

TONIGHT'S PROBABLE TEAMS AT WEMBLEY

with the suggestion that he had "Mad Hod Disease".

This followed an admittedly abstract but essentially lighthearted remark in Monday's press conference about wanting sule up above before deciding if he wanted it permanently.

BLANC Arselies

LIZARAZU

he inadvertently offered another verbal hostage to the tabloids by suggesting his position was akin to Cinderella awaiting the it will get worse if he stays and Wilkinson's sometimes rambling answers offer plenty of scope for such lampooning, but so far he has handled the media well. He can give the impression that media matters

When he saw himself pic-

tured as a curious composite of

Dr Spock and Scotty - he had

made a Stor Trek reference to

being "beamed up" - he might have thought to himself, "I don't

need all this." However, he was

still cracking jokes yesterday.

even offering a "head-in-hands"

shot for the photographers after

for a flat back-four. A long and lucid account followed, which can roughly be

are largely a waste of his time

but he did perk up when

pressed on a football matter: the

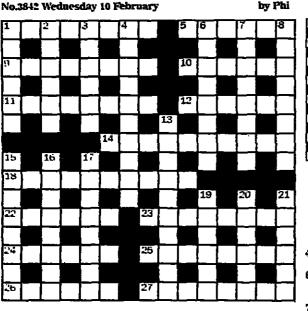
reasoning behind his preference

summed up as follows: changes in the laws have led to the game speeding up and play being stretched, forcing teams to defend deeper. It has thus become increasingly difficult for wing-backs to "defend ki [Claudio] Gentile and attack like [Dan] Petrescu". Simi really, and practised by France Brazil, Arsenal and Manches ter United but not, until

tonight, England. Including a previous caretaker, Joe Mercer, Wilkinson is the 10th England ma one of the previous nine, Sir Alf Ramsey, lost his first game in charge. His team was also playing France and they shipped five goals. He did not do too badly afterwards and, should France win tonight as form suggests, that thought should console Wilkinson and provide perspective. Not that it will in some quarters.

Zidane's plans: Dixon makes four, page 26

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS I A minor discussion pure nonsense (4-4) Sun's a very hot place protection from heat

needed (6) Say girl is to be given a cat (8) 10 Cake consumed in France, mostly? (6) 11 Giving personal advice

in the treatment of flesh 26 and most of pelt? (4-1) 12 I had American backing, 27 to get into curious radioactive element (6) 14 Coward isn't grabbed by aggrieved father (5-5)

18 Smart one . captivated by link to office - not anyone with real influ-22 Figure of speech enthralling University group of actors (6) 23 Aberdonian given charge after crossing river without payment (4-4) This effaces some blun-

der as erroneous (6) 25 Foot covering almost went too far, reaching middle of leg (8) Fears the end of subsidised studies (6) The ethical dilemma associated with hair colour? (4,4)

Bold, endlessly bold, and surely heartless (6) Item of jewellery show-ing black fish (6) 3 Not quite mad? That's

9 Published by Independent Newspaper (UK) Limited, | Canada Square, Canary Whatt, London E1+ 5DL, and orinted at Mirro

very good! (6) Music station? See car-load I diverted (5,5) Problem child's second to be taken in hand by teacher - excellent! (8) Finishes annoyed, with no time for part of Mass (4,4) Close companion shows the only way to end

game, we hear (4,4) 13 In bed, like a eeper? (10) 15 Metal repair? Old pews needing repair - about time! (4-4) 16 Capable of handling girl-

friend with modern tastes? (2-2-4) Memorial words to fellow trapped by action of medical machine? (4-4) 19 Level where you'll find mineral in a messy situation (6) British hero's craft mostly damaged (6) Information given to girl

in Swiss city (6)

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, (1998)

RUGBY UNION BY CHRIS HEWETT

Newcastle hopeful

despite Hall split

megaton wallet, was yesterday preparing to turn his back on existing assets - the Kingston the sport by off-loading his in-Park ground and a playing terest in Newcastle, the reignsquad packed with internaing Premiership champions. tional talent - and a seven-While his imminent departure figure golden handshake. As Andrew met his players yesdid not pose any immediate threat to Rob Andrew and the terday to put them in the picrest of the Newcastle mean ture and offer reassurance, machine who muscled their rumours circulated of a new sponsorship deal lucrative way to the Allied Dunbar title last May, it was certain to set enough to secure the club's the champagne corks popping future. "The deal will ensure in the last remaining bastions that the club can progress to of Old Fartdom as legions of the next level and meet the exciting challenge of European rugby," predicted David Camp-"told you so" traditionalists celebrated victory over the bogey-man they held personbell, director of the Newcastle ally responsible for the anarchy Gosforth Shareholders' Association, which has a 24 per cent let loose on the English game. Sources on Tyneside indi-

stake in the Falcons. cated that the Newcastle Sport-Hall bought his way into ing Club, the umbrella body set newly-professionalised rugby up by Hall to run and promote in 1995 by purchasing the old top-class basketball and ice Newcastle Gosforth club and hockey as well as rugby union, hiring Andrew, one of the would be severing its connecbiggest names in the English game, to turn it into a state-oftion with the Falcons over the next few days. "I have no comthe art outfit capable of winning ment to make on the reported honours inside five years. He break-up of the Sporting Club," paid Andrew a fortune for his said Andrew, Newcastle's trouble - a six-figure salary that director of rugby, yesterday. was so far off the Richter Scale "But I would like to stress that that it caused ructions throughit is business as usual with the out a sport still struggling to Falcons, who are looking forshake off the cobwebs of more ward to a long and successful than a century of amateurism and followed up his initial investment by signing Va'siga Tuigamala, Doddie Weir, Tony Severance negotiations be-

He took the view that he had

tween the Sporting Club and the Falcons' remaining shareholders were said to be at an advanced stage, with Newcastle likely to walk away from their Hall connection with their also bought himself an influ-

decision-makers and along with a small number of fellow millionaires who followed his example by pumping money into the English club scene, he proceeded to challenge the authority of the Rugby Football Union at every available opportunity. One of the prime movers behind the decision to boycott this season's European Cup, Hall's personal relations with many RFU leading lights, not least Fran Cotton and Cliff Brittle, were bitter in

the extreme.

ential voice among rugby's

However, Hall found the economics of rugby far less appealing than its politics. For all their success in gaining almost immediate promotion to the first division and then winning the Premiership at their attempt, Newcastle could not capture the hearts and minds of the football-crazed locals and failed to build a meaningful audience. They began to ship money: the players had to wait for their title-winning bonuses until Pat Lam's departure to Northampton released some funds. Equally embarrassingly, an attempt to generate more interest by moving from rickety old Kingston Park to Gateshead International Stadium fell flat

on its face. For those arch-pessimists who claimed that professional club rugby would never make commercial sense, there was a Underwood and a string of certain satisfaction in seeing other internationals, all on big their public enemy number one do something similar

The dream that died.

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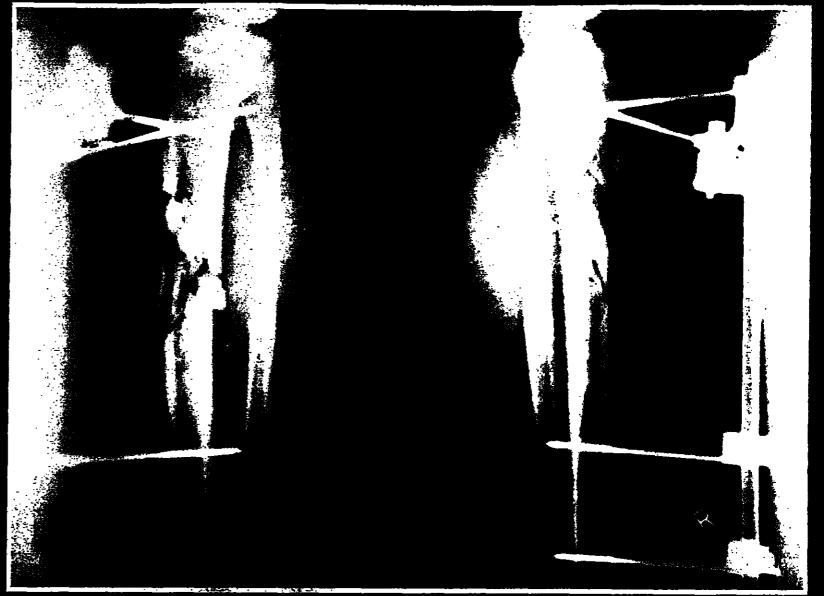
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future."



visit of the world cham-





The weapon on the left is used to inflict the kind of injuries you see on the right. In parts of Northern Ireland such beatings are seen as the only useful instrument of justice. Who is behind this violence? And whose interests does it serve?

blindfold, but I could hear them drumming the baseball bat against a wall behind me before they started hitting me. It was pretty scary, and then when the beating started the pain was terrible, it just went on and Jamesy Evans, 21, from the Short Strand area in east Belfast, stocky, with a shock of yellow hair and a quick smile, had known for a while that his time was up. He had received repeated warnings from the paramilitaries about his joyriding and drug dealing. But the call,

when it came, was still terrifying. group of "big fellas" at a night-club in nationalist west Belfast. They were, he says, members of the IRA. He was punched and kicked, blindfolded, dragged outside and taken to a house. After a short interrogation, he was taken outside again, made to lie face down and methodically smashed up and down his body with a baseball bat until one of his legs was broken. He was left to lie there until found by a passer-by.

Jamesy Evans was just one of the victims of systematic punishment shootings and beatings in Northern Ireland which threaten, perhaps as much as the impasse on arms decommissioning to unravel the Good Friday peace agreement. Since the start of this year, there has been more than one beating a day, the highest daily figure for 10 years. At this rate, there will be a big increase on last year's 213 punishment attacks. Even though there are about equal numbers on either side of the sectarian divide, the issue has been seized upon by Unionist politicians in Ulster and Conservatives in Westminster as a breach of the accord by the paramilitaries, and a reason to exclude them from the planned new Northern Ireland government.

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, is under increasing pressure as critics accuse the Government of failing to act. Her contention is that there is no direct evidence to link the beatings and shootings to the leaderships of the IRA and the principal loyalist groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defence Association. Sir Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, has stated that these groups are involved in the attacks. But In some areas of west Belfast, the local Sinn Fein while the faces and names of the victims are be-

coming familiar through the media, few if any of those responsible are being charged.

Pictures of 34 year-old Andrew Peden crying as he crawled about on his front-room floor have been seen repeatedly on TV news, showing the bloody stumps where his legs were amoutated by a UVF shotgun. He says he was caught up on. I was in hospital for two months." in a row between a group of his friends and members of the UVE over a woman. He was abducted and blindicked, had his hands tied behind his back, was beaten unconscious and then shot. He sobs: Twill never walk again, but it's not being able to do things with my three kids that really breaks my heart. I can't take them to the park, or fishing or swimming." His wife Linda has met members of the UVF

who, she says, now accept that her husband was not involved in the argument. "What good is that after he has been left with half a body?" she says. "We haven't got a life now - I even have to lift him on and off the toilet." Mr Peden adds: "Are we to become a nation of cripples?"

Who sanctions the beatings? The political ings of the major paramilitary groups – the IRA.

UVF and UDA - will not acknowledge that their

parent organisations are responsible. They at-

tribute the attacks to "vigilante actions" by loc-

als in areas where the police are not trusted. In

truth, everybody knows that the big paramilitary

outfits are involved. The Independent's in-

quiries confirm that most punishment beatings

and shootings in nationalist areas are sanctioned

by the IRA and carried out by its members, with

the knowledge and sometimes the involvement

of members of Sinn Fein. In the loyalist areas

the attacks are carried out on a much more ad

The claim made by the RUC and pressure groups such as Families Against Intimidation and

Terror is that attacks take place with the sanc-

tion of the paramilitaries and the encouragement

of their political wings, In both nationalist and

loyalist areas, people agree that the local part-

les know what is going on, because they are fre-

quently asked to act. In the hardline ghettos

many people will have no truck with the RUC.

centre would be the first port of call for many

hoc basis by the UVF and the UDA.

who want to complain about "antisocial behaviour" - that is, joyriding and drug-dealing, thefts and sexual offences.

People say that junior members of the political parties will adjudicate on the level of punitive action, and may even be present when it is carried out. One local politician is nicknamed after his distinctive footwear because that is what victims see when they are lying on the ground, about to receive punishment

Many people in these areas approve of quick, rough "justice". A community worker expla "You get very strong community leaders in the republican areas who would see themselves as progressive. But once it comes to the question of beatings, they articulate the same arguments as Conservative ministers. They say, Unless you punish them they think they'll get

beatings in the past and now lives outside

Belfast. He told us: "Despite what you may think

in England, there aren't bunches of sadists going

around beating up people just for the hell of it. In fact it is very difficult to get the men to carry

these out, to bit someone with a baseball bat, or

a big heavy piece of wood or hammer, until the

damage you cause may be more than needed...

And it does not work - you see the same kids

being done over and over again. You are taking

part in something which is brutalising you and

of punishment beatings? Sources say this sys-

tematic violence is to reinforce social control

among the nationalist and loyalist working-class

communities. The most compelling theory is that

it is designed to undermine the RUC in the eyes

of Chris Patter's commission on the future of

policing in the province. Sinn Fein says that the

RUC does not have a remit in certain areas and

What is behind the increase in the number

"You are aware that it may go wrong, that the

bone shatters - especially if it is a kid.

not helping them, so what's the point?"

Often the punishment is meted out by appointment, with parents taking the victims to a rendezvous and collecting them, battered and bleeding, afterwards. Gerry (not his real name) is a nationalist who has taken part in punishment

BY PAUL LASHMAR AND KIM SENGUPTA

comes from the sudden geographical spread of punishment attacks. Only last week a man was shot in the Fermanagh town of Lisnaskea, one of the quietest parts of Northern Ireland.

Drugs are one target of the punishment squads, and they have become a political issue. Sinn Fein and the IRA have long claimed that the RUC fail to arrest drug dealers, and use them as spies. Police sources talk of drug squad operations having to be abandoned after Special Branch complaints that their informants are being targeted for beatings.

The growing belief among the paramilitaries and their allied parties, especially Sinn Fein, is that punishment attacks do not work. Michael Ritchie, who was formerly with the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders, said: "On the republican side, there is a genuine interest in disengagement from the system of punishment beatings. They would want to disengage from the violent aspects and put in place a proper system."

This has resulted in the birth of a number of schemes aiming to break the cycle of retribution and reoffending. One of the most successful is Youth At Risk, run by Northern Ireland's assistant chief probation officer, Brian Mc-Caughey, and the community worker Jimmy Quinn. On Monday, Mo Mowlam met the probation board and discussed the project. Out of the 34 youths who started the year-long course, just a handful reoffended. One of those who have benefited is Jamesy Evans, who wants to work as a volunteer. Another is Martin McAreavey, a former recidivist who was beaten and exiled by the paramilitaries for theft and joyrlding. He said: "The guys who gave me a beating told me they were members of the Provisional IRA. I was told to leave Northern Ireland and ended up in Preston. I hated it. This scheme allowed me to come back. I have got a life again. I don't have to keep looking over my shoulder all the time."

What happens now is increasingly uncertain. But if the peace process is slowed because of decommissioning or punishment beatings, the SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon worries about the message that will send to the paramilitary groups. "We are taking the keys to the future and throwing them to the masked men in those organisations. What we are saying to them is, 'Look, the political process doesn't work'. thus must be disbanded. Support for this thesis The consequences could be very dire."



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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

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Schools for scandal

Sir. Your coverage of the remarks made by Chris Woodhead has been detailed and thorough. However, your leading article of 8 February missed the point

Mr Woodhead's remarks that a sexual relationship with a pupil might be "educative" undermine social mores that exist to safeguard the interests of two groups of people: young adults and their teachers.

Mr Woodhead was addressing a group of people in initial teacher training, mostly young men and women in their early twenties or even possibly their late teens. Mr Woodhead has given them a licence for licentiousne although I have greater faith in their professionalism, common

sense and moral values than in his.

He is not a football manager or media celebrity; he is the Chief Inspector of Schools. Ofsted, of which he is head, makes judgements on the spiritual, moral and social development of thousands of pupils in hundreds of schools each year. Ofsted's own handbook states: "Inspectors should consider whether the school provides a moral code as a basis of behaviour which is promoted through the life of the school," Such judgements are now worthless, and will remain so as long as Mr Woodhead remains in office.

I write this letter not only as a teacher in the state system, but as a parent of children in that same system. In one remark Mr Woodhead has placed a major obstacle in the way of truly professional relationships between teachers and pupils. ROBERT HALL Stone, Staffordshire

Sir: Chris Woodhead was saying, if I understand him correctly, firstly, that a promising young teacher should not necessarily be barred from the profession for life as a result of one error of judgement. Each case needs to be judged on its merits.

Secondly, he seemed to imply that a relationship between pupil and teacher, like many experiences both good and bad, might be educative in the sense that both parties could lean something as a result of their behaviour, even if only not to repeat it. He did not say that he approved of such relationships or suggest that they should form part of the National Curriculum. These opinions seem to me perfectly reasonable

GEOFFREY HEATH High Wycombe Buckinghamshire

Sir: To survive more than one hour needs to judge every situation, control her or his speech at all times and always respect those she or he addresses.

Can Chris Woodhead survive any longer, having irretrievably lost the respect of the teaching profession? We are told that "75 per cent of what he does is right". This is clearly not good enough. MICHELLE PEPRATX-EVANS Trinity and All Saints University

Sir: Why did Glenn Hoddle have to go, and Chris Woodhead not? Because football is seen as crucial to our national identity, and education isn't? Certainly, football seems to have become a substitute for industry, along with its class conflicts - the "workers" (fans) versus the bosses (club directors). Football is serious stuff: education is for girls. ANDREW FENNER Barnet, Hertfordshire

Sir: The real reason the education system is at war is because it operates under an ill-defined set of rules which are subject to rapid changes. There may well be 15,000 incompetent teachers in the system, as Mr Woodhead has claimed; the problem is that no two people in education could agree which ones they are. K B HOARE **Wolverhampton**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square; London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Viagra in the House

Sir, Good for Dr Stoate ("MPs prescribed Viagra by doctor in the House", 8 February). At least someone in government recognises the importance of erectile dysfunction. Clearly MPs also consider Viagra to be effective and safe. For the sake of equity I trust that Dr Stoate is also prescribing Viagra to his own patients in Bexleyheath despite the censorship imposed by the Secretary of State.

If there is no surgery in the House of Commons I am intrigued to know how he adhered to the published assessment guidelines he management of e failure, which include a full medical history, blood tests to exclude other medical disorders and an examination of the genitalia. Anyway, why on earth would his colleagues need the drug if 200 miles away from home. if not because their own GPs have been told they are not allowed to prescribe it?

Dr BILL ALEXANDER FRCP Consultant Physician Western General Hospitals NHS Edinburgh

Anxious children

Sir: I write as a grandmother of children aged between 15 months and 15 years. It is disturbing to read that "one child in five suffers mental stress" (report, 4 February).

Whatever the main causes, the situation is not helped by a cut in playtime for five-year-olds, and by the dropping of singing lessons to make more time for arithmetic. Mastery of the three Rs is no alternative to emotional intelligence. Whatever happened to the notion of a liberal education?

As a graduate of old, fully literate and numerate, my chief regret now, as I puff my way across the swimming baths (on a good day) is that I cannot swim, and therefore have been deprived of all water-sports, and that I cannot play a musical instrument and

therefore can only appreciate the skill of others. Every child should be taught to

survive in water, to help themselves and others to survive by adequate first-aid teaching, to know about the workings of their minds and bodies in order to remain mentally and physically healthy, to learn to enjoy the arts and the sports and to care about our world and the people, animals and plants in it.

· Some of such skills and acquisitions may be difficult to evaluate, to measure, to endlessly record, to report on. They may not improve one's position in any league table. Judging numeracy is **RUTH E AINLEY** Pocklington, York

Man the killer

Sir. Terence Blacker ("Our phoney sentiments for animals", 2 February) argues, rightly, that it is illogical to disapprove of acts of cruelty to animals in foreign countries while continuing to consume the produce of factory farming.

But, rather than belittling those who care about the suffering of animals, he would have done better to draw the logical

Sir: I enjoyed Barry Fantoni's

February) and agree with his

having one's poetry published.

I have to say, however, that if I started sending my friends

the rest would start to give me

bundles of my poems paper-

clipped together, as he and Cavafy suggest, many would quickly become ex-friends, and

some very strange looks

Sir: Given that the air travel

industry is determined to

defend its highly profitable

COLIN J JORDAN

indeed.

London W4

views about the wisdom of

letter about poetry (6

conclusion that objecting to gratuitous cruelty to animals and not buying the produce of factory farming are two strands of a consistently humane approach.

In the same vein he mocked those who treat apes as if they were almost human. Yes, people who visit attractions such as Monkey World are sometimes mawkish. They pose for silly photos with animals and then go and eat bits of dead animal in a restaurant. But at least they have been brought face to face with related species and have had the chance to reflect on our

similarities with them. human beings do not "hunt down members of close species to our own in the way that chimpanzees do to colobus monkeys". Well, we don't need to, do we? Homo sapiens exterminated the Neanderthals centuries ago. STEPHEN EVEMY Southampton, Hampshire

Black box for cars

Sir. Philip Thornton's report "Cars to arrest their drivers" (8 February) has missed one superb benefit of black box recorders in cars - insurance claims.

IN BRIEF

right to sell tax-free alcohol to

flights, it is a little hypocritical

for them to express outrage

when drunken passengers

STEPHEN LOWE WATSON

Sir: Nicolas Walter questions

Paul Vailely's assertion that

"human beings are hard-wired

for religion" and asks, "What is

the evidence?" (Right of Reply,

9 February). The answer is : he

is. Atheism is the religion of

non-belief. To me, Mr Walter

cause trouble.

Lewes, East Sussex

sengers before and during

My car was backed into while I was stationary. Six months later I have had to threaten the other driver with legal action if her insurance company does not stop pretending the accident never happened. A black box in each car would prove mine was stationary and the other driver was

Make it a legal requirement to have a black box and an offence not to produce the data and millions of pounds would be saved in phone calls, letters and court action, not to mention innocent drivers' sanity. It is not an abuse of civil liberties to be forced to tell the truth. Luton, Bedfordshire

Sir. With over five million road collisions every year in Britain, it is worth noting that the first of these to involve the deaths of both driver and passenger occurred a hundred years ago in Harrow.

On 25 February 1899 driver Edwin Sewell and Major James Richer, a passenger, crashed into the foot of Grove Hill, Harrow whilst travelling downhill at over 20mph in a car with a maximum design speed of 14mph.

A simple prayer vigil, open to all, will be held at the site at 3pm on

seems to be an atheist

fundamentalists.

Dr SALAH EZZ

fundamentalist not much

different from other religious

Sir: Adrian Simmonds (letter, 8

February) feels that the Irish

should move on from their

British colonialism and

obsession with the "evils" of

past to Britain berating the

Italians for the past crimes of

the Roman Empire. If Italy still

held a part of Britain under its

rule, he might have a point.

RICHARD BAPTISTE

compares this fixation with the

over the past century, an estimated half a million people. We shall also recall the first

the centenary to remember all

who have died on Britain's roads

motorcycle tragedy, occurring the same month. George Morgan fell from his speeding motorbike in Exeter and died of head injuries on 23 February 1899, two days before the Harrow tragedy. The age of motorised deaths had begun. APORTER London W7

King in exile

read that the South African authorities "after consultation with the current Albanian government" have ended the diplomatic immunity previously given to His Majesty King Leka of the Albanians ("Exiled king arrested as police seize arms cache", 8 February).

It is just over twenty years since Tito's Communist regime in the then Yugoslavia pressured the Spanish government to expel the King because of his support for the Albanians in Kosova. Oh that the world might have looked more closely at the plight of the ethnic Albanians then!

The late Anwar Sadat of Egypt; King Baudouin of the Belgians and King Hussein of Jordan were all good friends to King Leka. Let us pray that Albanians who seek a peaceful and free existence might find some good and supportive friends among the leaders with whom we are left to-day.

The King, Queen Susan, Crown Prince Leka and the Queen Mother, Queen Geraldine, have shown many kindnesses to my family and me over the past twelve years and I urge the South African government to reconsider their position, particularly bearing in mind the struggle of their own people at home and during exile to reach self-determination. DANIEL COOKE Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

Marauding 4x4s

Sir. On the day you published Duff Hart-Davis's article on four-wheel-drive vehicles (6 February), I went out with others to enjoy a winter walk along the South Downs Way. I found myself competing with 14 or so such vehicles for right of way over the track. They won.

Surprised by this unusual intrusion, I asked a fellow walker, forced through the barbed wire fence of the adjacent field in an effort to keep her two dogs out of harm's way, if she knew why the 4x4s were there.

It was the hunt, came the resigned reply. But they hunt on horses, don't they, I asked naively. Of course they do; these were the hunt followers who, perhaps legitimately, perhaps not, had obtained access to the Way and were pursuing their own quarry

along its length. Thwarted in their attempts to get closer to the site of the chase, they perched on the sides of the track at the best available vantage points and waited, binoculars raised, in the comfort of their charlots, like harples awaiting the

moment of drama. Normally I expect to see these monster vehicles plying their way. often half on the pavements, along the narrow lane close to my house. They aren't on agricultural business there either. They are

taking children to school. Something needs to be done. JENNY POWELL Storrington, West Sussex

Ageist jobs bias

Sir. The decline in job prospects for men approaching retirement age is blamed on the high cost of funding salary-related pensions ("Jobs for middle-aged men vanishing", 8 February).

This can hardly be the case for the large numbers of low-paid manual workers who lose their jobs, since they are most unlikely to be members of generous finalsalary pension schemes.

In the case of better-paid employees, it is a false economy for employers to resort to early retirement for those in their 50s simply to save on pension contributions. The resultant competition for the diminishing supply of skilled workers in their 20s and 30s merely has the effect of bidding salaries upwards.

Sadly, the deterioration in job prospects for middle-aged employees reflects the ageist policies being adopted by an increasing number of employers. NIGEL WILKINS London SW7

Sir: I am angered and concerned to Net censors

Sir: It was disingenuous of John Carr (Right of Reply, 8 February) to ask whether illegal material on the Internet should be censored, just as it is in the "real" world. In many ways it is much more

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straightforward to censor material on the Net than elsewhere. In its first year of operation the Internet Watch Foundation, of whose policy board John Carr is a member, arranged for more than 2,000 items to be removed from the Net. In each case, the IWF simply asks for Internet service providers to remove material from their servers and, in a flash, the material is gone. Police do not need to be called, juries do not need to be convinced and there is no accountability to the public. ALAN DOCHERTY London SE22

Our filth ignored

Sir: If "there is no information for Scotland and Northern Ireland", how do your Environment Correspondent and headline writers know that the factories described in your report of 8 February are the "worst polluters in Britain"? Is it merely that anything in England is well known. by those in London, to be bigger than elsewhere? RICHARD CORMACK St Andrews,

The overlooked beauty of vapour trails and macaroni

most significant art works of the last 100 years?" asked the man at the bar.

We all gazed in amazement. The man at the bar had never raised the subject of culture before. except once to make a dismissive remark about Damien Hirst. "In what sense?" said the

"In the sense," said the man, "that every man and his sister working for every paper and every tinpot TV station are preparing lists of the most significant, the most notable, the most important everything, in time for the millennium. The 10 greatest writers, greatest novels, greatest British table tennis players... I just happened to notice that nobody has bothered to select the 10 greatest art works of green lady, "and she makes them bar.

"SO, WHAT do you think are the 10 the last 100 years and I thought it have the Bible and Shakespeare, would while away a few minutes to sort out a list."

Make it 1,000," said the man with the dog. "All right, 1,000 minutes."

"No, the last 1,000 years," said the man with the dog. "Otherwise the Mona Lisa wouldn't qualify. Or anything by Constable."

"Oh, boring, boring, boring," said the lady with the green hair-do and the matching Chartreuse. "Who wants a list with all the usual suspects in? You want to get a few surprises. That's why they give them the Bible and Shakespeare on the Desert Island." "Pardon?" said the resident

"When Sue Lawley puts them away on a desert island," said the

it's not because she thinks they ought to have them. It's to relieve them of the duty of choosing them as their book. Otherwise too many people would choose them, see?

We sort of saw. "All right, think of a better idea," said the wife of the man who never said anything.
"I will," said the lady with green

hair "Choose the 10 most significant art forms of the 20th century "You mean, like jazz?" said the jazz bore.

"I most certainly do not," said the green lady. What I mean is that there are certain visual media in the 20th century which we still don't recognise as art forms but which have enriched our lives." "Name one," said the man at the



KINGTON

'If Damien Hirst went up in a plane and did those trails, we'd all think he was a great artist'

"Vapour trails," she said. There was a grand silence. We waited for an explanation. It came. day. Should get lottery money."

"Sometimes," she said, "you look up into an evening sky while the heavens are all blue while we down here are already in dusk, and you see a white plume which is a vapour trail left behind by a high passing aircraft making the most beautiful patterns. Nobody has ever said, Look at those dreadful vapour trails', as they might say 'Dreadful pylons'. A vapour trail is always lovely, especially as it twists in the grip of the stratospheric

winds and starts to fade away... She paused, exhausted with the effort of poetry.

"She's right, actually," said the man at the bar. "I'd never thought of it. But if bloody Damien Hirst went up in a plane and did those trails, we'd all think he was a great artist. Anonymous pilots do it every

"I'd like to nominate motorway cones," said the man with the dog. The dog said nothing. "Sometimes I have looked ahead down a motorway and marvelled at the patterns which have been created with cones, over long distances. I've never dared say so before, for fear of being thought mad."

"Any advance on motorway cones?" said the resident Welshman, entering into the spirit of things. "Td like to nominate sheep droppings, except that people would make anti-Welsh jokes."

"How about toplary?" said the man at the bar "Think big," said the lady with green hair. "Think crop circles."

"Think ploughing patterns," said a visiting farmer. "Think angels," said the vicar, who was no longer sober.

"Think hairstyling," said the reen lady, patting her emerald locks, and we all laughed. "Think pasta," said the man

who normally never spoke. We all paused. "Pasta is not only an art form. It has also saved my life." We paused some more.

"I once went to collect my little girl from school in midwinter, and by the time we came out again, the snow had closed in and cut us off. There were about a dozen of us parents and offspring, trapped in a school overnight, with no food at all except the kindergarten pictures made out of dried pasta shapes. We boiled up the children's pictures and ate them. To this day, I believe

it saved our lives." There was a short pause and then the conversation moved on to something quite different.



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Certainly firm, but this punitive asylum policy is far from fair

YESTERDAY'S PLANS for asylum and immigration were an unwelcome reminder of New Labour's authoritarian tendencies. Thousands of asylum-seekers are to be given leave to remain, but the good news ends there. Payments in kind, rather than cash benefits, are to be introduced, the application procedure is to be speeded up, and those who carry illegal immigrants into Britain are to face heavier punishments. At the heart of the proposed Bill is a fundamental illusion - that Britain can pull up some imaginary drawbridge, and behave as if the world has gone away.

The Government's ideas are being presented to Middle England as "getting tough" with unwelcome gatecrashers, who are flocking to Britain to take advantage of welfare hand-outs. This is simply not true. Those found not to be genuine asylum-seekers had their right to cash help cut off by the Conservatives. Moreover, asylumseekers often find themselves housed in the dirtiest and most crowded parts of London's bed-and-breakfast underworld, as local authorities struggle to cope with their sheer numbers. This is no over-generous gravy train.

Britain is not a "soft touch". Does anyone really believe that Michael Howard and his fellow Tory grandstanders would have left any loophole unplugged, if they could have gained voter approval with another raft of restrictive measures at Conservative Party Conference? Other nations have taken far more than their fair share of refugees, especially from the former Yugoslavia; Germany and the Scandinavian nations have a particularly honourable record. Britain is still struggling to catch up.

There is a problem with asylum. The previous administration left the Immigration Service badly organised, poorly funded and demoralised. The ensuing backlog of 52,000 cases has been exacerbated because of the worsening situation in many parts of eastern Europe in particular. The most recent case has been Kosovars seeking asylum from Serb aggression; other groups pleading persecution have included Romanian and Czech Gypsies. In this situation, accelerating the asylum process by cutting down the number of appeals is probably justified; but stopping welfare payments even to perfectly legal asylum applicants will do nothing to reduce the numbers of those wanting to enter the country.

The numbers seeking asylum in Britain may be growing, but they are growing all over the world, boosted by widely available air travel. Even so, refugees are mostly taken in by neighbouring countries who are just as poor. The governments of Uganda, Burundi and Zaire, who took in millions of fleeing Rwandans, would probably not sympathise

with a British plea that we are taking too many refugees. There is also a problem with immigrants remaining in Britain after their application for asylum has been turned sanctuary within our borders.



down; in 1997, 26,000 "disappeared" in this way. But, as the numbers wanting to come to Britain continue to mount, how will replacing cash benefits with food packages and payments in kind solve this problem? It is more likely to cause more such "disappearances". The Government seems to believe that it will save money with this Bill, but the more likely outcome is that it will have to spend more on immigration officers, and waste more police time hunting those who have already been refused entry.

This is why the Chief Executive of the Refugee Council, Nick Hardwick, is right when he calls the Bill a "mishmash" - firm but not fair or fast. Tinkering with the system will not make the real world go away. On the contrary, it could leave us back where the Tories left off: punishing those who cannot defend themselves, harming race rela-. tions in this country, playing to the lowest common denominator of public opinion, and refusing to spend the money that is needed to care properly for those who seek

And the winner is... the British film industry

THE LIST of British Oscar nominees is a long one: Dame Judi Dench, Lynn Redgrave and Brenda Blethyn for Best Supporting Actress, Sir Tom Stoppard for Best Screenplay, Sir Ian McKellen for Best Actor, and Emily Watson for Best Actress. Such recognition gives the lie to some of the recent pessimism about the state of our film industry.

Following the December incorporation of Polygram Filmed Entertainment into the United Artists arm of Seagram, the Canadian group, all was doom and gloom. The company that had overseen Four Weddings and a Funeral had been swallowed up, and more bad news was to follow. The Arts Council cap on the amount of lottery money being spent on any single project seemed to put Ealing Studios at risk as the site of the National Film and Television School. of which have been so disappointing.

But the pluses outweigh the minuses. It is true that most of the money backing innovative British talent comes from American companies. Miramax funded Shakespeare in Love, nominated yesterday in a record-breaking 13 categories. The British success stories The Full Monty and Little Voice were supported, respectively, by 20th Century Fox and Buena Vista.

But this is no cause for alarm. Britain has a wealth of special-effects expertise, and world-class studios at Pinewood and Shepperton. We have some of the best actors (and directors and technicians) in the world. American and British audiences, tired of the same New York and Los Angeles cityscapes as backdrops, seem sold on British style and landscape (gratifyingly, not the chocolate-box version). If foreign money wishes to subsidise the skills and knowhow that are the real basis of this industry, so be it. Far better to compete in the open market than to base our filmmaking on subsidies from the National Lottery, the results

Whatever happened to your ethical foreign policy, Mr Cook?

SIERRA LEONE is moving closer to Whitehall. Too close for comfort for the Foreign Office and for Robin Cook. Yesterday, a Commons Select Committee accused Sir John Kerr, the head of the foreign service, of failing in his duty to ministers, a grave charge against a civil servant.

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Accounts

Downing Street leapt to Sir John's defence but in noticeably unspecific terms. "He runs a huge department and runs it very well." We can all agree that Sir John runs a huge department. Rather too huge and rather too resistant to being scaled down as it happens, but that is another story. He was there as a leading figure in a catalogue of obfuscation, disinformation and incompetence which ended up with the Government running two contradictory policies at once, hoping that no one would notice the difference and then seeking with monumental clumsiness to cover its tracks when the truth began to leak out.

The Foreign Secretary has announced that he is "standing by" his officials, a guarantee they may find less than soothing. Less than a year ago, in response to the initial allegations about Sandline International's involvement in Sierra Leone, Mr Cook blamed his officials for failing to inform Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office minister, of a Customs and Excise investigation into Sandline's arms de-

livery to Sierra Leone. Why does it matter? Sierra Leone is a long way away. Its democratically elected leader, President Kabbah, may not be a candidate for the human rights activist of the year award, but he is threatened by an even less pre-

possessing opposition. So what if the West Africa department were running their own policy of tacit support for the use of a mercenary organisation to prop up a friendly government in distress? What is all the fuss about? Tony Blair's target voter, Sierra Man, does not waste much time thinking about

Sierra Leone. Go down this route and you end up excluding the Government from accountability for anything it does not fancy being accountable for Asking awkward questions about what really happened is a rude intrusion into the purring business of government.

That is dumbed-down democracy. The British Government privatised its dirty work in the former colony of Sierra Leone, where it has a substantial interest in the diamond industry, without acknowledging that it was prepared to encourage the use of a mercenary organisation to defend

our trading interests. There is a debate to be had on whether governments should farm out intervention in distant conflicts. But it has never taken place. Mr Cook's stated position is that he disapproves of the spread of mercenary forces. Inembargo on the export of arms to either side in the civil war.

The departmental report by Sir Thomas Legg states that "Mr Cook and Mr Lloyd confirmed the goal of drying up arms to all the parties in the Sierra Leone conflict". But what is this? "This aspect was not published abroad ... nor to Parliament, the public and to staff."

No indeed. As far as the public pre-



ANNE **MCELVOY**

There is a debate to be had on whether governments should farm out intervention in distant conflicts

sentation of the policy was concerned. the embargo was interpreted as only applying to the insurrectionary forces. By this sleight of hand, the Government was able to encourage the result it wanted - armed intervention by regional forces to restore President Kabbah, while formally being committed to an arms embargo. It was, as the Select Committee report goes on deed, the UK promulgated the UN's to say, "dealing in half-truths - a dangerous commodity".

It does not matter how rarefied the subject. When governments say one thing and do, or allow something entirely different to be done, we should cry foul. More worrying than the reversible policy on arms supply has been the Government's writhing to escape responsibility for it. Mr Cook refused last summer to co-operate with the select committee enquiry on the

grounds that the Legg inquiry was in bland Whitehall figure to run a departmental inquiry. We know these inquiries. They neither bark nor bite.

Mr Cook refused to allow the head of MI6 to give evidence to the committee, thus reinforcing the intelligence services' reluctance to serious failure of communication. succumb to parliamentary scrutiny. Yesterday, he commented that the inquiry "has not uncovered a single fact not made public by Legg months ago". This is rich coming from a minister who sought to block the committee's access to Foreign Office telegrams and to the head of the relevant intelligence service. If the committee had difficulty unearthing facts,

we know why.

I like to imagine how things would have gone if the Mr Cook we knew in Opposition had been confronted with the behaviour of Foreign Secretary Mr Cook, He would have torn himself limb from limb. It may be that he gets a certain perverse pleasure from squashing in others the same non-conformist instincts he used to have himself, but this is hardly edifying.

The broader truth is that scrutiny of the executive in Britain has never been weaker. Most select committees are carefully constructed so as to cause the least amount of inconvenience to the relevant departments. Select committees are our only hope of knowing what government is doing. They should be strengthened, not attacked or undermined.

The committee had no option but process. Were that to count as a to base its report on the account of Sir precedent, all that any minister in John Kerr. But to accept Sir John's actrouble need do to stave off parlia- count that information about a Cusmentary scrutiny is summon up a toms and Excise investigation was withheld from Mr Cook for four weeks, even after Customs investigators had raided the Foreign Office, you would have to believe either that Sir John was bent on under-informing the Foreign Secretary, or that he presided over a

Knowing that Sir John is both an experienced and a politically sophisticated diplomat, I am loath to reach either conclusion. Is it not possible that he did brief ministers, including Robin Cook - or at least pass on the relevant material to be read - and that he is taking the blame in order to protect them? That would not necessarily be an act of altruism. An ambitious civil servant may conclude that a reputation for protecting a vulnerable minister will stand him in better stead than siding with his department. We

still do not know the truth. The Government has veered between two approaches to damage limitation and failed in both. The first was to blind us with detail, in the hope that we would become confused and bored by the intricacies of the saga. The second was to apply the simplistic maxim "if it works, it's right" to the complexities of Africa.

Not yet a year on, the renegades are fighting for control of the diamond mining areas. Freetown is a bloodbath, the insurrection is revived, the brutality deepened. So much for this ethical foreign policy. It wasn't right, and it didn't work.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This is not easy, and frankly it's not a lot of fun, but we are making progress." Christopher Hill. chief mediator at the Kosovo peace talks

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

'Liberty is the right to do everything which the laws allow." Baron de Montesquieu. French writer and historian

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trial is absolutely necessary. It is necessary for the victims and for their families who have been plunged into unhappiness by the cruellest of injustices and who deserve some IS THIS a simple case of ethics, reparation. And it is necessary for the three accused ministers who are currently condemned by public opinion with neither proof nor judg-ment. Justice must establish personal and criminal intent. not to rejoice when politicians Without it, if the defendants are are called to account. This is a Le Figuro

THE CONTAMINATED blood condemned, the discrediting of politics will be doubled by the disastrous imposition of a trial by public opinion.

> or just more mischief-making? We are all in two minds regarding the trial. Serious accusations have been aired and it is vital that justice be done. Furthermore, it is difficult

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD The French press on the trial of three ministers for involuntary manslaughter

of incompetence and the igno- itself - as if anyone needs rance of the illness itself - the victims have a right to this trial. French shortcomings, two evils We all need to hear the truth.

tragedy provoked by a mixture THIS WHOLE business finds reminding - at the heart of two

conscience, which always which would have been. Yes, prefers to punish rather than there are victims. Yes, we must take their unhappiness, their make reparation; the second distress and their pain into concerns the privileges of the prince, in this case the privileges of the princes, who no longer have cause to be such. Le Monde

NOBODY COULD seriously think that there was malicious intent in the decisions taken at the time. It is incredibly diffisuitable for our system the first cult, even if these decisions is the matter of the collective weren't the best taken, to say L'Ouest France

we can to make up for that. But it should be remembered that these victims are the victims of a virus rather than victims of the authorities who certainly would have wanted to avoid at all costs the drama in which they have suddenly found themselves immersed.

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PANDORA

ONE PERSON who may not be thrilled with the nominations for this year's Oscars is the British director Tony Kaye. Kave directed American History X, which has earned **Edward Norton the Best** Actor nomination, But Kaye and Norton didn't get on: "He is a narcissistic dilettante." said Kaye of his leading man.

Kaye was so upset about problems with the film that he tried to have his name removed as director and replaced with "Humpty Dumpty". At one meeting with his annoyed studio chiefs. Kave arrived accompanied by a rabbi, a priest and a Tibetan monk, saving he wanted to add some spirituality to the event. Maybe the Academy needs enlightening, too?

THE FORMER Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies. can still pack a punch despite having lost his ministerial weight. In a prerecorded interview with BBC Wales recently, the presenter Steve Evans asked Davies how he thought the infamous "error of judgement" on Clapham Common would affect his campaign for a seat in the Welsh Assembly. Davies managed to shrug the subject off but he made his annoyance known after the interview. Pandora was curious as to why the exchange had disappeared when the piece was aired. One of Anntie's spokespeople explained that this was because of editorial and time

IT SEEMS that those around Peter Mandelson are going to great lengths to keep his profile low. An acquaintance of Pandora's lives in Hartlepool, and was keen to buy a recent issue of Punch. which included yet another article on Mandelson Pandora's friend went to a well-known newsagent to purchase his copy, but he was told that there were none available. Enquiring about the sudden rush for the satirical magazine, the wannabe Punch reader was told that someone had arrived early in the morning and bought the entire stock. Obviously the morning light is still

purposes".

operate. THE QUEEN & Alia international airport in Amman has been the scene of extra commotion **Area**

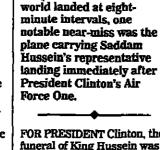
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FOR PRESIDENT Clinton, the funeral of King Hussein was a chance to be at the centre of the world stage, where he appears to be most comfortable. However, the situation at home has truly reached rock bottom. A group calling itself the Clinton-Without-Trousers Brigade has launched itself into action, draping more than 100 pairs of underpants from trees in the Capitol Hill area to protest at the President's reckless, predatory and sometimes violent behaviour towards innocent women".

NED SHERRIN is bleak about the future of books. He told a recent gathering at the British Book Awards: "It's sad that books have to be filled with four-letter words beginning with "f" and "s" in order to sell. Then again, *feng shui* is very popular." Sherrin added: "The last time I went to the library to get a book on the subject, I found that the section had been moved."

PANDORA WAS interested to read an article penned by the Lib Dems' previously Eurosceptic MP Nick Harvey entitled: "Why I'm now in favour of a single currency." Hmm. What Pandora wants to know is, where was the subheading which, surely, should have read: "I really, really want to be the Lib Dem leader and I have to kid a largely Euro-friendly membership to vote for me?" No matter, it was pretty clear between the lines.

BRINGING BACK memories of the Beatles' Magical

the latest idea from the estate of John Lennon (pictured). which is controlled by Yoko "Oh No". Roll up for... the 1999 Educ ational Tour **Bus. Reatles** fans will be pleased to learn that the bus stops in California and Arizona

and is going nowhere Liverpool. Pandora can be contacted by c-mail at:

pandora themselves. independent.

Surfing the media maelstrom

I DON'T think anything can ever quite prepare you for a concentrated dose of media attention like wot I have had over the last 48 hours. Of course, I have to judge everything against the standard set in the halcyon Greater London Council days of the early Eighties, when the press pack seemed to have an awful lot in common with a pack of hyenas.

In fact, the closest I got to a rough ride over the last 48 bours was being grilled by David Aaronovitch on the BBC's Newsnight. David had pored over virtually everything I had written in the last couple of years in order to prove that I was an unreconstructed oppositionalist. It's one of the wonders of modern human behaviour that the most brutal anti-leftists you encounter these days are former members of the Communist Party like David Aaronovitch, Perhaps it's because they know all our lefty tricks from their own past behaviour, but it makes them formidable opponents.

The sheer proliferation of radio and television channels, and politics programmes therein, has transformed the way politicians have to plan their media strategy. Twenty years ago you would

spend most of the day being grilled

No one ever asked me whom I was going to bed with and what I was doing when I got there by newspaper journalists and then rattle off four quick interviews, one each for BBC and ITV radio and TV.

Nowadays, you aim to try to cover all the journalists at one halfhour press conference and spend the rest of the day repeating the same basic message to what seem like dozens of separate radio and television programmes.

KEN

LIVINGSTONE

It is this shift in the balance of coverage from newsprint to the electronic media that has helped my

personal political survival. When I became leader of the GLC in 1981 it was the newspaper coverage that determined how the public saw me and radio and television had to respond to the agenda set by the newspapers every morning. Now, the proliferation of electronic media means that most members of the public get to hear you being interviewed live or at least unedited and form their own opinion of the worth of what you are saying.

What is more, hostile newspapers can't run a sustained campaign of vitriol if it contrasts with their readers' own direct experience of what you have said on radio or television.

Critical newspapers have responded to this shift of power by simply choosing to ignore you if they are no longer in a position to denounce you. This was clearly shown by the coverage of my advert in the London Evening Standard on Monday, with the quality press by and large reporting the event but the mass circulation dailies, which are opposed to my candidacy for mayor, either ignoring the event altogether

or burying it in a paragraph or two. The contrast with the bad old days is stunning. After I'd had just six months as leader of the GLC, the newspaper coverage of my performance as leader had been so devastating that I seriously did not believe that it would be possible for me to get elected to any position ever again.

The classic example was the Daily Mail, which brought their chief war correspondent back from covering the civil war in Lebanon and sent him into County Hall under the instruction to file six stories a day, the three most damaging of which would then appear in the following day's paper.

The late Sir David English at each morning's editorial confer-ence would always ask, "what are we doing on the GLC today?" and would often instruct the Moil's cartoonists to produce some particular bit of virulence to go with the main story.

Now, as it's almost impossible to sue because of a cartoon, the most damaging images of the GLC, such as the one of the IRA applying for a GLC grant to purchase nails for their bombs, always appeared in cartoon form in these papers.

Then, of course, there was the issue of my private life. Having fought 11 elections I must have that time, and not one ever asked me about any aspect of my private life.

My views on the economy, transport, defence and Ireland, yes, but whom I was going to bed with and what I was doing when I got there, never. This did not, however, stop newspapers arguing that there was a public interest, which was extended to the point where my partner found one Daily Mail journalist going through my dustbin, while wearing long rubber gloves.

As the GLC had launched a campaign to tackle discrimination against lesbians and gay men there was a vast amount of newspaper coverage implying that I was gay. As I have never once responded to any media rumours about my private life this allowed wilder and wilder speculation to be published.

The all-time low was a Private Eye article claiming that I was importing pills from San Francisco that changed the taste of human semen to strawberry flavour. Although I just laughed this off, it was depressing to find that some people believed it enough to write to me asking where they could buy them.

Set against that low point, the last 48 hours of my life have been a com-

We make no apologies for our tough benefits regime

HAROLD WILSON once said that the Labour Party was a moral crusade or it was nothing. For years, many on Britain's left saw this crusade as an end in itself. But all the campaigns in the world count for nothing if they don't deliver, and that's how the Government will be judged.

The Welfare State has been subjected to more crusades than most. Too often these have been crusades to defend the status quo, reacting to the symptoms of huge social and economic failure, but refusing to confront and deal with their causes.

Calls for the "right to benefit" and even calls for more benefits miss the point. Someone who loses their job wants to get back into work. and that demands a change in culture on the part of both the Government and the people.

who worked and those who did not. People were written off, and many expected no better for their children. Fifty years after the start of the Welfare State, a child can still be born poor, live poor and inevitably die poor The stuff of a moral crusade - yes, of course - but much more than that: we need to confront the causes of that failure. To do that, we need to recast the role of the Welfare State

Fifty years on, no one has an unqualified right to benefit. And that's not what they want. They want the right to get help back into work They want to be independent, to get on - to do the best they can for their families, just like everyone else. A new right, matched by a responsibility to do something to help



ALISTAIR DARLING We will keep people's

minds on what they could do with their lives other than claiming benefit

For years there was an stable world, where people work in acceptance that there were those several jobs between starting out on employment, and retirement. The since post-war Britain.

The new Welfare Reform Bill, published today, sees a radical change in the culture of the benefits system and a new contract between the state and the individual. The new legislation says, in effect: "We will help you to get into work, but in return you have to do something to help yourself."

The new regime will be far tougher than people thought. People will be asked to come in for interview. We will not apologise for our determination actively and repeatedly to keep people's minds on what they could be doing with their lives other than claiming benefit.

All the evidence is that the Fifty years ago, benefits were longer that people are out of the designed for the most part, as a stop- labour market, the longer they gap between jobs. Now the system take to get back into it. So we will has to cater for an uncertain and un- end the something-for-nothing ap-

proach that has characterised the past. In its place will be a new approach and a new gateway to the benefits system for everyone of working age, where everyone gets the advice they need and where the option of taking benefit and going home is no longer there. People have a clear responsibility to help themselves. And it is a responsibility that most are more than willing to accept. They can see a genuine partnership between hemselves and their government, dedicated to a common purpose.

The old, passive approach to paying benefits means that the benefit system we inherited has failed to keep pace with economic and social change, with people being dependent when they need not be.

Two-thirds of current spending has its roots in decisions taken before the Beveridge Report in 1942. In the past, governments have simply reacted to the symptoms of failure - spending more, but doing little to tackle its underlying causes. Between 1979 and 1997, the Conservatives increased spending by more than 90 per cent. But, despite that, one in three children was living in poverty and one in five nonretired households had no one in work. Now one in three people remains at risk of relying on income support in retirement.

Our strategy is to confront the causes of failure: a serious assault on the causes of poverty - poor housing, poor education, poor health and lack of job opportunities. Right across the board, we are investing more to tackle the problems caused by the years of economic and social failure. Benefits cannot remove the causes of poverty.

Today we set out a radical new contract between the state and



People with disabilities are one group the Government aims to help

Gateway, replacing the system we inherited, which focused on cash hand-outs, with no support for people to gain independence. Instead, the Single Gateway will provide everyone with a personal adviser who will help them to become independent, in turn ensuring that they receive help to which they are entitled.

People have every right to expect us to give them this support. But off - nor are we prepared to allow this must be matched with the responsibility of helping themselves. Our new contract will require and security for those who can't, we people to attend an interview as a are reforming a system designed for condition of receiving benefit, and to consider the options available to system to meet the needs of the next them. They need help to acquire 50 years.

people of working age - the Single skills and training, and we are providing that support. It is their responsibility to take up this offer of guidance and, where they can, to return to work. There can be no excuse for failing to take up that opportunity. The Single Gateway will make sure that people understand the opportunities and advice available.

These are radical reforms. We are not prepared to see people written providing work for those who can post-war Britain and building a new

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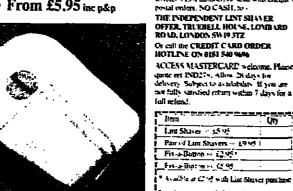


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Time is running out for the car combustion engine that

finally realised the ambitions of the masses for personal transport. It took time. Early motors were monstrously expensive and getting about in an early automobile was not easy. In fact, the challenge was part of quickly became a great sport for the wealthy.

In spite of the difficulties, the enthusiasm for motoring reached extraordinary heights. Engineers were brimming with ideas for new vehicles and new technology, some of which were sensible and some not.

Even the mono-wheel made appeared at intervals ever since. We do not know how the driver was expected to make the entire assembly rotating inside its own tyre.

Postwar austerity brought Europe back down to earth tainment would change the with a bump. Engineers were forced to lower their sights and in the process created an extraordinary phenomenon: the bubble-car. The bubble- of ourselves holographically car was an attempt by German into other peoples' homes. An aircraft manufacturers to turn

their expertise and production capacity to a mass market.

For a while these motorised prams were quite successful until their owners discovered they were liable to be blown over in a gale. Buyers soon returned to the predictable comfort of the Mini, the Volkswagen Beetle and other European the attraction - motoring small cars, which together opened up the whole of Britain to the family motorist.

The fun didn't last long. Traffic jams involving horsedrawn vehicles had always been common in the larger city centres, and with the arrival of the family car, the congestion spread. In the midst of the clamour for faster and cheapan appearance, and has re- er transport, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that until the Fifties, ordinary people managed without cars altogether. an emergency stop without Do we need to travel as much as we think we do?

It used to be thought that dictions were optimistic. "teleworking" and home enterway we live. Commuting would disappear. Conceivably, at some time in the future we would project life-size images "intelligent" computer might



CHRIS WRIGHT From a lecture given at

London by Middlesex University's chief transport researcher

Gresham College.

synthesise your speech and

we can eliminate road accidents for good, and do away with the need for traffic enforcement into the bargain.

bodily movements. You could "be" in several places at once. But so far, it seems the pre-What we would really like is a car that drives itself, so that

Unfortunately, the world is populated with animals having no grasp of safety principles.

Neither pedestrians nor other animals are ergonomically designed to mix with motor vehicles, not even so-called 'intelligent" vehicles.

No computer has yet been built that can be trusted to recognise a brick wall, let alone an elephant, and although it will come eventually it may be a long way off. Consequently, it is hard to see how vehicle movement could be automated within the road system as we know it.

Humans cannot help but be excited by the imagery of motion, Trains, cars and planes have personae. As long ago as 1937, the American design guru Raymond Loewy published a book consisting almost entirely of pictures of steam locomotives of which any science fiction film producer would have been proud. His own car and locomotive designs are still regarded as classics. Later, the Volkswagen Beetle and the BMC Mini became chubby little friends, like Noddy's car in the Enid Blyton books brilliantly illus-

trated by Beek Transport technology and transport design are two different things. They converge able channels.

only when technology is pushed to the limit, typically in aircraft design.

But in the case of the family saloon, power is not critical: even a Rover Metro can go faster than is advisable in today's road environment, so the pressure to maximise performance is much less.

Clearly, transport design has never been entirely a rational pursuit. More contentiously. I want to suggest that technology has not been driven necessarily by rational forces either Inventors have pursued their dreams irrespective of scientific logic or even commercial good sense. The environment has gone to the wall.

The road is narrowing and time is running out. Throughout the developing world, billions of people dream of owning motorcars like their American and European cousins.

Rising prosperity is bringing within reach a level of car ownership that would cause irreparable damage to the environment. We need to invest in new technology in order to divert travel demand into sustain-

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New Scotland, old fears

TVE JUST spent a weekend in the new Scotland, where everyone is hip. I left the old Scotland 15 years ago because nobody was hip - or, more precisely, because nobody, especially me, could get a hip job. I have marvelled or the seat needed and a half that all Scotland needed forward-Rousing and head south forward-looking nation was for me

In the old Scotland, people were and down the country people could obsessed with lists, and in pubs up and down the country program each be heard compiling them each be heard compung mem between the Scots had evening nems mas me direction invented, medical breakthroughs the Scots nau mane, was and so on with Scottish ancestors, and so on with Scoulan and on. These lists were and on and on these man on the notable particularly because they notable particularly backward-looking, were entirely backward-looking were enurcy background to the history books.

In the new Scotland, people are still obsessed with lists, and in bars up and down the country they can be heard discussing them each evening. Scots who are internationally successful actors. Scots whose new novels have sold more than a million copies, Scots who are massive pop stars, artists, designers, and so on. These lists are notable because they are out of date the day after they are created as another young Braveheart splatters on to the world stage. They are, therefore, supplemented by other lists, of people who are about to make the breakthrough any minute now. They are entirely forward-looking, and checkable only by awaiting the iudgement of history.

In the old Scotland, you only ever saw the kilt being worn by small girls and during the Edinburgh International Tattoo. Though the participants were members of Scottish regiments and could be forgiven for wearing the kilt, you could tell which of the audience members were American tourists by the fact that you could see their hairy knees. These tourists would find the stir they created rather gratifying.

In the new Scotland, no wedding is complete without a phalanx of men in full-dress tartan and at least one piper; up-and-coming young Scotsmen go dashing off to London Fashion Week with polkadot and silver kilts for sale; and everyone carries a camera and a handy hooked implement in case Ewan McGregor happens to wander by with no pants on. He appears to find the stir that he has created rather gratifying.

In the old Scotland, people railed against the English, who had beaten and colonised the nation. Although it had to be admitted that the Campbells were a clan of traitors responsible for the Glencoe Massacre, no one was really willing to face the fact that at Culloden, the "English" army of destruction had been largely made up of Scottish mercenaries.

In the new Scotland, documentary makers have to cancel their programmes because they cannot find anyone who is willing to discuss



DEBORAH ORR

The new Scots, like Renton in 'Trainspotting', chose life. But not the kind Labour has in mind

the nation's putative hatred of English people. When Scotland is warned about the folly of independence by representatives of southern government – Gordon Brown threatening huge television licence fees in an independent Scotland, or Robin Cook warning that an independent Scotland will have to reapply to join Europe - the Scots just laugh about how history has taught us that there's no enemy as implacable as a fellow Scot.

In the old Scotland, the people had flirted with the Scottish Nationalist Party, yet had said no to devolution when they got the chance. Instead Scots complained bitterly about the yoke of Thatcherism, and mused on what democracy could mean when a country was governed by a political party it had ejected utterly in the polling booth.

But the new Scotland is governed by a party that is only too aware of the Scottish contribution to its vast parliamentary majority. New Labour, indeed, has so much in common with new Scotland that it has added the same prefix to its old name to signal its dynamic change. New Labour, New Scotland. This time, though, the people have taken their chance and said yes to devolution. With characteristic contrariness, Scotland, governed for the first time in 20 years by a political party it voted for, is flirting with the idea of voting Nationalist in the May elections.

But only flirting. I see no real appetite for independence in the new Scotland, Instead I see old fear, and a country that is turning to the Nationalists only to issue a warning. Which seems to me to be the point at which old Scotland and new Scotland become the same place a place dogged by job losses, poverty and social deprivation, where young people fall prey to drugs, prostitution, crime, welfare dependence and homelessness.

Back home in Scotland, all this

is easy to see. A walk down the High Street in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, where I used to shop as a schoolgirl, is a testament to waste. About two-thirds of the shops are boarded up. Some were small businesses which couldn't survive anyway. Others - including James Barr, the Britain's biggest E coli outbreak -

have had to close because of subsidence, for parts of the town are now collapsing down into the abandoned mines that once brought the town prosperity.

A glance at the local paper, The Wishow Press, brings news of a transatlantic squabble. The New York Times has just published a feature on Hamilton, the nearest big town, graced by the presence of no less than the local Marks & Spencer The article is not complimentary, telling of slums, criminal youth, substance abuse and fearful pensioners. The new Scots aren't taking this lying down, and counter on the letters pages with tales of crack and crime in the Bronx.

Talk in the pub is of the fabulously vocal booing that Donald Dewar, the man who, if all goes well with Labour, will become the first minister of Scotland in May, was greeted with on a trip to Ibrox, the Rangers' football ground, as a protest against job losses.

For the new Scotland has found itself in an industrial slump that is 10 times worse than that of the rest of the UK, in which companies face their toughest trading conditions for 20 years. This slump has cost the nation 2,000 jobs in the last few weeks alone, on top of the 14,000 that were lost last year. The new Scotland provides the real answer as to why the Bank of England made that "surprise" 0.5 per cent cut last week. And the new Scotland needs interest rates to be cut again within weeks, if it is to avoid a full-blown

The threat of SNP votes in the May elections is a warning to New Labour not to claim responsibility for Scotland's admirable, even miraculous optimism, just as Unison's support of Rhodri Morgan as Labour's candidate for the Welsh Assembly is a warning that, despite its formal acceptance, Fairness at Work is more tolerated in the union than admired, and London's sympathy to "Red Ken" and his mayoral challenge is a warning that London wants to make some symbolic amends for, and not further colonise. the policies of Thatcherism

The Scots know that the new Scotland, like the Cool Britannia of which it is a part, is made up of the trappings of counter-culture. It represents the flower of resistance to the years of Tory rule and the triumph of people over politics. New Labour does not do itself a service by attempting to burnish itself in the light of Cool Britannia, for the people who made it happen know that their triumph came in spite of the government policies that New Labour continues to deploy. The new Scots, just like the rest of the cool Britons, took drugs, signed on the dole then fiddled it, and refused to take jobs they didn't really want. The new Scots, like Renton, the anti-hero of Trainspotting, chose life. But not the kind of life New Labour seems to have butcher shop at the centre of in mind for them. And that's the



warning in a vote for Alex Salmond. Ewan McGregor, the kilt-clad actor who symbolises the success of modern Scotland

Newsflash

RIGHT OF REPLY

PAULINE **KIDNER**

The Patron of the National Federation of Badger Groups responds to an article on Saturday by Duff Hart-Davis

THE NATIONAL Federation of Badger Groups is very concerned that a remark I made at a meeting in Gloucestershire has been misrepre sented (report, 30 January) as our supporting the Culling Programme. In answer to a specific remark by Brian Jennings (NFU) stating that the NFBG would not put down an infectious TB badger that was suffering, I emphatically denied this. We follow very strict health regimes

We are totally against the badger-culling programme as it is logistically impractical. More worryingly, farmers are openly admitting to taking matters into their own hands and killing badgers in the nocull part of the triplet of experiments. While £27m has been allocated to the culling programme, only £7m is to be spent jointly on vaccine research and other areas of contributing factors such as trace element deficiency; animal husbandry and climate.

It is already accepted that TB incidences must be due to multiple factors and that badgers are not the single cause. which is why one farm will get a TB breakdown and the nextdoor one will not, even though they share the same social group of badgers.

Indeed it is still not possible to identify the difference between immune, infected and infectious badgers when they test positive. More than 20 vears of culling have proved that this method does not work and some research shows that this can exacerbate the problem. Yet there are rumours of extended culling in addition to the experiment. Is this also to come out of the taxpayer's pocket?

With incidences of TH breakdowns increasing across the country attributed to cattle or badgers, involving different strains of TB that have never been seen before, we cannot continue to follow this blinkered approach.

Blaming the badger is a total red herring and the price of culling will mean that we shall soon run out of money and still have no answers to this serious problem.

A killer that never went away

A DOCTOR'S first duty is to do more good than harm. How rarely that duty las been honoured in the last 200 ears! The march of science is slow and stumbling, and the central lesson of this book is that progress is always lalting, with false starts and wrong urnings. Scepticism is the only proper esponse to medical claims and ounter-claims, however distinguished heir proponents.

Tuberculosis has defied medical cience for 2,000 years, and still defles now Over the past two centuries. ince John Keats coughed, turned his illow crimson and died in 1821, its inidence has risen and fallen without pparent regard to the laws of science. o have the ways of treating it.

We seldom hear the term "invalid" nese days, although more than half ne population over 65 describe themelves as having a chronic ailment, acording to last month's Social Trends. the word conjures up images of incidence through the 19th and much of the 20th century was in the moun-



WEDNESDAY BOOK

THE WHITE DEATH: A HISTORY OF **TUBERCULOSIS** BY THOMAS DORMANDY, THE HAMBLEDON PRESS, £25

more than 50 years ago it was not un- one of the most heavily infected councommon for tuberculosis sufferers to spend months or years in one of the many sanatoria that sprang up around few days in hospital - and tuberculosis victims are not admitted at all. They are treated with drugs as outpatients.

If times change, medical hubris does not. Tuberculosis had always been thought a disease of polluted towns, where damp houses and overcrowding facilitated the spread of infection. But in Britain, its highest atients swathed in bedclothes, sip-incidence through the 19th and much

pointment with their maker. Yet little tains of rural Wales, and Norway was

tries in Europe. The highest mortality in the world was among the Bantu workers in Jothe turn of the century. Now it is rare hannesburg. There was a complex for any patient to spend more than a interplay between social, economic and immunological factors, but this was unrecognised and even less understood. About 150 years after Keats's death, Sir George Pickering, professor of medicine at Oxford, observed that the history of medicine was a monument to human folly.

The grimmest warning in Thomas Dormandy's book comes in the final chanter. After decades in which doctors had advised all manner of strange remedies, many of them lethal (including bloodletting, gold injections and enforced rest), the breakthrough came with the discovery in the Forties of streptomycin and isoniazid, soon to be followed by other drugs. It looked at last as though the disease was beaten. But the optimism has proved to be short-lived. Tuberculosis, always an opportunistic infection, has reappeared with a vengeance.

The reasons are the rise of Aids and the growth of drug-resistant strains. The emergence of these strains caused near panic in medical circles in New York when first observed in the late Eighties, for it left doctors with almost as few options as they had had at the time of Keats.

Nor should anyone take comfort from the idea that the disease is confined to Aids. Tuberculosis linked to Aids has never accounted for more book, as comprehensive a history as erculosis. But don't bet on it. than 20 per cent of cases. Nor is it a you are likely to find. Dormandy is a



The poet John Keats died of tuberculosis in 1821, at the age of 26

one middle-class family of four, three terest in the disease and he writes in of whom contracted the disease in a terse, sceptical and open-minded quick succession. One, an actress waiting for a Concorde flight to New asides on the foibles of his medical York, vomited blood all over the white forebears. What are missing are some carpet of British Airways' VIP lounge. explanations. I could find no account

As Dormandy observes, every illness has a personality that affects more than its victims. Tuberculosis infected the entire culture. This was not only because it killed so many of pneumothorax does not explain what those who created it (the list of victims reads like a roll-call of genius: Chopin, three of the Brontes, Kafka, Beardsley, Modigliani, Mansfield, Stevenson, Lawrence, Chekhov, Orwell) but because it also imprinted itself on the creations of the non-tuberculous majority. Thus its history is more than a history of medicine. It was not only a killer (there were plenty of those); it transformed lives as well.

This is a scholarly and thorough ens is to outlive Mycobacterium tub-

disease confined to the poor. I know consultant pathologist with a long instyle, with occasional coruscating of what tuberculosis is. I still have no idea what a diathesis is, despite having read a chapter under that heading. Similarly, a discussion of it is. For a non-medical readership, these are strange omissions which might have been avoided with more

careful attention from an editor. The story remains a remarkable one, because it is not yet over. Dormandy says that what has characterised the tuberculous imagination is a capacity for hope and a determination to fight in this life. There is much fighting still to be done if Homo sapi-

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WEDNESDAY POEM

THE MARRIAGE VOW BY LETITIA ELIZABETH LANDON (1802-38)

The altar, 'tis of death! for there are laid The sacrifice of all youth's sweetest hopes. It is a dreadful thing for woman's lip To swear the heart away; yet know that heart Annuls the vow while speaking, and shrinks back From the dark future that it dares not face. The service read above the open grave Is far less terrible than that which seals The vow that binds the victim, not the will: For in the grave is rest.

Our poems until Friday come from the new paperback edition of The Penguin Book of Victorian Verse', edited by Daniel Karlin (Penguin, £10.99)

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Dame Iris Murdoch

IRIS MURDOCH was a national institution. Her name has entered the language in adjectival form, as have those of Proust, Kafka and Pinter - once you embark upon reading a Murdoch novel you are caught up in a whole world, a world whose chief characteristic is hordes of characters, each of whom seems to be in love with more than one of the others, and to do improbable things that seem startlingly apposite. There are dark aspects to the Murdochian universe: adultery, incest, erotic follies, betraval, deception, religious anguish, guilt and even murder, are part of her stories, but these are tempered by a strain of metaphysical speculation and ethical concerns - she was a trained philosopher.

Murdoch also portrayed characters who were happy, even in a state of bliss (this is particularly true of the animals who populate her tales - they have personalities, too. and are always blessed with sunny dispositions). Above all, she was a consummate story-teller, prodigiously inventive and generous, in the realist tradition of Dickens, Jane Austen, George Eliot, Henry James, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky: in whose company she would have

liked to have found herself. The Sea, the Sea (1978) is a reasonably typical Murdochian story. Its protagonist, the well-known theatre director Charles Arrowby, is not an evil man - simply completely self-centred. The plot is one of obsession, and borrows from The Tempest the theme of the use and surrender of magical power. Charles, a bachelor aged more than 60, has retired to a lonely seaside house, "to repent of a life of egoism", and lead a simple, solitary life. He cooks horrifyingly disgusting meals for himself (the menus were suggested by Murdoch's husband, John Bayley, who would shock people by pretending to find the food perfectly nice), and soon discovers that the house is haunted.

The tale rattles right along, with something odd emerging from the sea, women making unwelcome reappearances in his life, kidnapping and violent death. The tragicomic world is further populated by Charles's male helpers, who include an old rival, his cousin James, a soldier turned Buddhist. The atmosphere of the novel is intense, the story gripping - it's a real pageturner, though it's an intellectually demanding book about forgiveness

and violence. Murdoch was born in Dublin. Irene Richardson (she and her sister later added the name Cooper) had returned there because she had some female relations there, including her sister, to help with the birth. Some sources say that her mother and father, Hughes Murdoch, moved to London when Iris was one year old, and others say she was nine. In fact, her biographer Peter Conradi has discovered that her father had a London address in 1914. As a civil servant in Ireland he was given the choice of staying on in Dublin or being posted to Belfast or London - he thought it prudent to go to England. Iris Murdoch always felt passionately Irish, but she also felt that it was possible at the same time to be British. She was not only of Ulster Presbyterian stock, but had some ancestors that were Ply-

mouth Brethren and Quaker. She had a particularly happy child-hood, which she attributed to being voice, and considered training as a singer, but marriage out paid to that ambition. Murdoch loved to sing herself, and, after a good lunch, often did.

She had a high, reedy version of what she called her mother's "shebeen soprano". Murdoch was educated at the Froebel Educational Institute in London, and her boarding school was the progressive, high-minded Badminton School, Bristol, It was there that she acquired her facility with, and love of languages, that led her to list "learning languages" as her recreation in Who's Who.

In 1938 she went up to Somerville College, Oxford, where she read Greats, was introduced to philosophy and got a First. She went up at the same time as the philosopher Mary Midgley, and in 1939 was joined at Somerville by another philosopher, Philippa Foot, with whom she lived during the Second World War, Roy Jenkins and Kingsley Amis were contemporaries, and remained lifelong friends. From 1938 to 1942 she was one of 30 open members of the Communist Party at Oxford. Sometimes she said she'd been a Communist since she was 13.

Just over a week after her examinations in 1942, she was conscripted as an assistant principal at the Treasury. She was back in London for the second stage of the Blitz, and stayed at the Treasury until June 1944, when she joined the United Nations Rehabilitation and Relief Association. Murdoch spent the first 15 months with Unrra in London, and left for Brussels in early September 1945, when, almost at once, she met Jean-Paul Sartre and Chico Marx.

Following three months in Belgium, she worked in four different camps in Austria, as an administrator Dr Jancar, a Slovene who was one of the 30,000 who fied Yugoslavia, told Peter Conradi that Murdoch was impatient with red tape and so unhappy about the conditions of the inmates of the camps, who had to subsist on near-starvation rations, that once she took the keys and illicitly opened the railway carriages containing the potato cargo. On that occasion, Jancar remembered, he found some sweets in his pocket, placed there by Murdoch for him to give to his wife. Her work with dis-

'I don't read biographies, but apparently people buy them,' she said. 'But me? What is there to say about me?'

placed people in the camps meant finding them blankets and food and sometimes new papers and even a

new nationality. She returned in July 1946, having spent two years with Unita, and applied for a Commonwealth Fellowship to the United States. An inveterate truth-teller, she ticked the "yes" box beside the question "Have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" The result, which annoyed her for the rest of her life, was that she was refused a visa.

In 1947 she was awarded the Sarah Smithson studentship in philosophy at Newnham, Cambridge. There she met Wittgenstein, and, though she did not fall under his spell an only child. Her mother had a fine in the usual way of the postgraduate students who came into contact with him, she remarked the "shocking immediacy" of his presence. Then in 1948 she got a fellowship at



St Anne's College, Oxford, where she well-known Hungarians, she distaught philosophy until 1963.
She had fallen in love with Frank

Thompson, the older brother of the historian E.P. Thompson, and it was assumed they would marry. But Thompson fought with the partisans in Macedonia and joined them in their march to Sofia, and he was captured and executed by the Nazis. Her next romance was with Franz Steiner, a Czech Jewish refugee who was a poet and anthropologist. He had lost both his parents in the death camps, and had a heart attack in 1949, from which he never recovered. Conradi finds elements of him in Peter Saward in The Flight from the Enchanter, which, though it was published in 1956, was actually written before her first published novel. cle included many refugees, in-

liked Arthur Koestler, while she was fond of Thomas Balogh and

Nicholas Kaldor. Though Murdoch became a philosopher, she had thought seriously about becoming an art historian - she made an intense study of Renaissance pictures, and all her life she looked at pictures in a way rare among non-specialists. It is not well known, but she herself had painted at school and during the war. So it was not so odd that on leaving St Anne's she went from 1963 to the Royal College of Art, where she was invited by Christopher Cornford to teach the general studies course. One often meets artists lucky enough to have been taught by her, such as the successful painter Bill Under the Net (1954). Her social cir- Jacklin. At the Royal College, Murdoch was the contemporary of Janie cluding Elias Canetti. Of the three Ironside and Humphrey Spender. In

1967 she left, and went on to write same person would receive a confi-27 novels, some plays, poems and philosophical treatises.

In the spring of 1953 she met John Bayley, then a very junior instructor in English at St Antony's College, Oxford. She was in the midst of much emotional turmoil and, as she later said to the novelist A.S. Byatt in a moment of retrospection, "Why should I be cheated of happiness?" She wasn't In August 1956 they began what became a legendarily happy marriage. They were the subject of endless anecdotes - from John gossiping to one lunch guest while Iris explained Sartre to another, to the weekend host who, taking a tea tray to their bedroom, found Iris learning German irregular verbs while John flipped through the pages of a downmarket women's magazine. Or John would tell a confident, "I don't dence from Iris that she didn't like

cats, but John did. Iris was not much

of a cook, though she was proud of

her stifado, a Greek dish of beef, olives, tomatoes, wine and vinegar The Bayleys were enormous fun to be with, together and separately, and were much loved by friends such as Lord David Cecil, Christopher and Baillie Tolkien and Andrew (A.N.) Wilson. For many years they lived in a large, undisciplined house at Steeple Aston, with stacks of books in unlikely places and a sink full of washing up. In later years Iris's appearance got more and more eccentric. She often wore one particularly beautiful item of clothing, such as a scarf, and walked about in plimsolls, which eased the pain of her arthritis. She was thus shod in 1987 when she went to Buckingham Palace to be invested DBE.

Peter Conradi tells how he learned in yoga classes how to stand on his head. One day in 1984, having lunch in Dino's, he offered to show her on the spot. She tensed up a little, and Conradi desisted, but the episode was incorporated into The Good Apprentice published the next year. Her novels were never romans à clef, but there are recognisable portraits of people she knew, especially in the early novels. But when friends thought they had been drawn on for a character in one of her novels, she said on a radio programme, "it was generally vanity" Murdoch won a vast number of

prizes, from the James Tait Black Memorial Prize to the Booker Prize. and was even rumoured to have been nominated for the Nobel Prize. She also collected a large number of honorary degrees. She was faithful to her publishers, Chatto & Windus, but would not allow so much as a comma to be changed in her hand-written manuscripts. After she took on Ed Victor as her literary agent, her royalties became considerable - it has been said that she gave most of them away.

Despite her obvious goodness. Murdoch was modest and selfeffacing. John Russell tells the story of someone asking her if it was true that a biography of her was being written: "Yes, it was, she said, much to her surprise; that she might be the subject of an almost universal curiosity had never occurred to her. I don't read biographies, but apparently people buy them. But me? What is there to say about me?" She was, however, despite her idiosyncratic appearance, enormously attractive. She had the ability to fix her gaze upon you with complete concentration, in the way a child does. It suited her unworldliness that she was interested in Buddhism, and hoped mankind might one day evolve a non-supernatural religion. In her last years she suffered from

Alzheimer's disease, and was tenderly nursed at home in their very un-donnish North Oxford house by John Bayley, until, three weeks ago, it became impossible to care for her singlehandedly, and she went into the Vale, a nursing home that specializes in Alzheimer's patients. She was able to socialise, after a fashion, almost up to the end. As John Bayley says in his recently published, loving memoir Iris, she became like a child, mostly docile and very affectionate. Friends first noticed something was wrong about 1995, about the time of the publica-Dilemma. I asked her then if she had, as was her habit, begun to think about her next book. She said: "I don't think there will be another one." Her friends knew she was having memory difficulties, but I was surprised that she was so final about it, and I asked what she would do with her time: "Read," she said, "and sing."

John Bayley had the help of some devoted friends, especially Peter Conradi and Jim O'Neill Iris and John often went to their cottage in Wales, even late on in her disease. To the end, Iris retained her bright smile, greeting and seeming to recognise those who loved her. Having refused food and drink, she simply faded, peacefully, with John at .

Jean Iris Murdoch, novelist and philosopher: born Dublin 15 July 1919; Fellow, St Anne's College, Oxford 1948-99; FRSL 1958; CBE 1976, DBE 1987; CLit 1987; married 1956 John Bayley; died Oxford 8

General Krishnaswami Sundarji

KRISHNASWAMI SUNDARJI was in the late 1980s, in northern and India's most brilliant, ambitious and controversial chief of army staff, who during a little over two years in effice committed the army to a disastrous peace-keeping campaign in Sri Lanka and on at least two occasions brought India close to war with Pakistan and China. Known as the "thinking general", the whiskysipping Sundarji also raised the mechanised infantry regiment and was responsible for re-organising the army's functioning and laborious

equipment procurement policies. But Sundarji was vilified for committing the expeditionary Indian Peace Keeping Force, the IPKF, to Sri Lanka to disarm Tamil Tiger rebels lighting for independence following a bilateral treaty between the two neighbours in 1987. Armed with little or no intelligence regarding the rebels, the Indian army walked into a virtual trap laid by the highly committed Tigers in the north and east of the island. It took the IPKF over two years to extricate itself from Sri Lanka having failed in its mission, but only after suffering an unusually high casualty rate and covering itself with ignominy.

The irrepressible Sundarji also organised Operation Brasstacks, India's largest ever military exercise

western India, seriously raising tensions with Pakistan who feared an attack under the guise of peacetime manoeuvres. Brasstacks was aimed at cutting the southern Pakistani province of Sindh in two to make it easy for India to thrust into Pakistan's heartland of Punjab.

Sundarji also planned a covert, albeit cynical, winter offensive against Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in which he was willing to take an exceptionally high casualty rate in snowbound, inhospitable terrain at heights of over 14,000 feet to resolve the Kashmir dispute over which the nuclear-capable neighbours have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947. He achieved the near impossible task of ferrying tanks to a height of nearly 13,000 feet for the bold operation but at the last minute was ordered to call it off by

the perspicacious Raijy Gandhi. Fighting also escalated during Sundarji's tenure as army chief along the 20,000-feet-high Siachen glacier, the world's highest battle ground, claimed by both India and Pakistan, where hundreds of soldiers have died since the early 1980s in cross-border firing and from exposure to temperatures that average 30 degrees Celsius below freezing.



'I have to aim for the moon'

Nearly two Indian soldiers die every day on Siachen as the posts they occupy are higher and colder than those held by Pakistan.

The confrontation over Siachen is a financial burden for both sides, totalling around \$2m a day. India's outlay, however, is higher as everything is flown in by helicopter. According to official estimates one chapatti (unleavened bread), staple food for soldiers, costs over 12 rupees (16 pence), or 80 times its normal cost. Sundarji also raised the ante

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a disastrous war in 1962 over a territorial dispute that remains unresolved - during two exercises, Operation Checker Board and the follow-on Operation Falcon along the eastern front in the late 1980s.

He strongly advocated India becoming a nuclear weapon state, frequently detailing in newspapers and at seminars the exact number of missiles it would need to build an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction to deal with Pakistan and China.

In 1984, as head of Western Com-Bluestar to flush out armed Sikh separatists hiding in the Golden Temple in Sikhism's holy city of Amritsar in the north. The disastrously executed operation in which over 500 people including around 80 soldiers and scores of women and children died, ended after 72 hours of fierce fighting when tanks were brought in.

Operation Woderose, the mop-up exercise that followed to apprehend terrorists across Punjah state, alienated the entire Sikh population. It led eventually to the assassination of the prime minister Indira Gandhi by her two Sikh bodyguards in October 1984 followed by the anti-Sikh pogrom in Delhi and other north Indian cities in which over 5,000 peowith China - with whom India fought ple - mainly Sikhs - were murdered.

But Sundarji was involved in con-troversies other than operational. He As chief of staff of the Katanga comwas a major player in the import of 410 howitzers from Sweden in the mid-1980s in which kickbacks of over \$200m were allegedly paid to In-dian officials and politicians. The complex Bofors case, which is still under investigation, led to the downfall of Rajiv Gandhi's Congress government and tarnished the image of India's military, considered till then to be above corruption.

Born into a high-caste Brahmin mand, Sundarji planned Operation family in southern India in 1928, Sundarji graduated from Madras Christian College and joined the British-Indian army in 1945, two years before independence. He was commissioned into the prestigious Mahar infantry regiment a year later and posted to the North West. Frontier Province (now in Pakistan) to quell restive Pathan tribesmen forever at war with the colonial administration. Thereafter he was posted to the disputed, northern Kashmir state of which Pakistan forcibly occupied a third in 1947 before it was halted by the Indian army.

He attended the Defence Services Staff College at Wellington in southern India in 1959 and after a series of command and staff postings was part. of the United Nations armed contin-

mand combating rebels, he was mentioned in dispatches for gallantry.

On returning home in 1963 Sundarji took command of an infantry battalion and participated in the second war with Pakistan in 1965, again over Kashmir A tenure as instructor at the Staff College, Wellington was fol-lowed by the US Army Command and General Staff course at Fort Leavenworth. He graduated from the National Defence College in Delhi in 1971 and was posted as brigadier, General Staff of a corps involved in the 1971 operations against the Pakistani army in East Pakistan that broke away to become Bangladesh.

In 1976 Sundarji became the first infantry officer to command an armoured division. During his threeyear tenure he realised his ambition of raising the desperately needed mechanised infantry regiment and was a forceful member of the committee reorganising the army before being promoted to lieutenant-general and becoming deputy chief of army staff. After two years as general officer commanding-in-chief Western Command during which he planned Operation Bluestar, Sundarji became vice-chief of army staff then

Till he retired 26 months later be did more than any army chief before or after Criticised by many for his naked ambition and aggression, Sundarji's simple answer was "I have to aim for the moon". After retirement he completed his masters in defence studies at Madras University and remained in the limelight by admitting that he had been pressured to opt for the Swedish howitzer by the government. In his 1993 book Bland Men of Hindooston - Indo-Pok nuclear war, he wrote a fictional account of a nuclear war between the two neighbours that came chillingly close to reality.

An engaging and charming conversationalist Krishnaswami Sundarji was a keen gardener and a wild-life enthusiast who lived under "Z", the highest category of security, surrounded by army commandos for his involvement in Operation Bluestar and in Sri Lanka

Krishnaswami Sundarji, soldier. born 30 April 1928; Deputy Chief of Army Staff 1981-82; general officer commanding-in-chief, Western Command 1983-86; vice-chief of army staff 1985-86, army chief 1986The state of the s

Anne Spoerry

NO ONE meeting Anne Spoerry physician, aviator and adventurer could forget her two greatest attributes: a heart of gold and the Big Voice she always wrote of with capital letters and which she developed specially, as she put it, "to get things done".

in 1964, in Kenya, Spoerry put both characteristics to good service when she offered her medical experience and a newly acquired Piper Cherokee 235 to what was then known as the Flying Doctor Service. She had learned to fly just a year earlier when she was already 45. Her offering doubled the fledgling organisation's flying capacity which until then had depended entirely on the founder's own small aeroplane.

For more than 20 years afterwards. Spoerry organised fund-raising, medical training and immunisation programmes as well as conducting regular flyingdoctor clinics under the shady wing of her little plane all over Kenya's northern district and around Lamu as far as the Somali border. If Amref, as the Flying Doctors' Service is now known, is the successful organisation it is today, it is in large measure thanks to Spoerry's cheerful and energetic presence, her generous (though little-trumpeted) financial contribution and her Big Voice.

Anne Spoerry was born into a comfortable Alsace family that had moved from Switzerland to Mulhouse in 1848 to begin a textile business. She spoke fluent French, German and English, thanks first to an English governess and later to the two years she spent in London at Francis Holland School, Graham Terrace. Although she had once dreamed of studying history of art at Oxford, in 1938 she began a year-long pre-med course at the Salpetrière Hospital in Paris. That same year, she and a group of fellow medical students embarked on a two-week cruise of Greece and the eastern Mediterranean, whetting her appetite for travelling which would lead her, nearly 10 years later, to Kenya.

Unwilling to allow the outbreak of the Second World War to interrupt her studies, Spoerry found by 1940 that she was the only member of her family left living in the occupied zone. Her parents had moved to their holiday home at Partigon, while her brother François, who would later make his name as an architect and developer of Port Grimaud, the lagoon village in the bay of St-Tropez. was also in the south working with Jean Bernard, the Resistance leader in the South of France who was so close to the Special Operations Executive.

Anne Spoerry joined the team, and, while her brother used an architectural research project in Aix-en-Provence to shield his work for the Resistance, Anne ran a safe house in Paris from which she looked after the SOE operatives sent there from London. In April 1943 she was arrested a few days after her brother. She spent the remainder of the war into take on a woman doctor, especially an carcerated in a German concentration unmarried one. But she soon learned that camp in Ravensbrück, where she was the farmers at Ol Kalou, in the Rift Valeventually freed by the Swedish Red leg had founded a co-operative to be able Cross just days before Hitler's suicide. to afford the services of a full-time doc-

After the war ended, it was François daughter of a neighbour in Partigon, that in a little Peugeot 203 station wagon with

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Spoerry, left, at work for the Flying Doctor Service, near Nairobi, in 1986 Corbis / Yann Arthus-Bertrand

set Anne Spoerry on the path to Kenya. Joy's father, Antonin Besse, was a wealthy merchant with a large and expanding business centred on Aden and Beirut (he was also a great philanthropist; he founded St Antony's College, Oxford, and saved Gordonstoun from closure in the mid-1950s). Having rounded off her medical studies with a year in Basle, obtaining a Diploma in Tropical Medicine, in 1948 Spoerry sailed for Aden, where she found work first on a pilgrim ship belonging to Antonin Besse

the company of a bull terrier named Winny after Winston Churchill. She soon, too, bought a farm close by, and began playing polo and hunting to hounds.

Spoerry lived through the Mau Mau at Ol Kalou, during which she nursed whites and Africans alike (and took time to found Ol Kalou's first troop of Girl Guides). But, when Kenya became independent, all the farms owned by whites around Ol Kalou were compulsorily purchased for redistribution under the "Million-Acre" scheme.

Over an area of north-east Kenya covering tens of thousands of square miles, she became known as 'Mama Daktari'

and later in the women's section of the local hospital. She visited Ethiopia and, eventually, Kenya, where she had friends.

During a second visit to Kenya in 1950. she became determined to stay. The government medical service was reluctant tor. At the age of 32, Spoerry had her first Spoerry's marriage to Joy Besse, the African medical job, covering 60 farms

She was already taking flying lesson at a small airfield 30 miles north of Ol Kalou, at Subukia, and she bought another small farm there where she began spending weekends. During the week, her flying took her to Nairobi, where doe, invited her to join the newly es- mortal remains. tablished Flying Doctors of East Africa, later renamed Amref (African Medical Research Foundation).

Her first job was to start up regular flying clinics in the north-east of Kenya.

Every five weeks, she made a long circuit, treating spear and gunshot wounds, and infectious diseases, as well as dispensing advice on family planning and immunisation. Over an area covering tens of thousands of square miles, Anne Spoerry became known as Mama Daktari".

Founded to serve seriously ill and disabled people who had no access to modern medical care in Kenya's most remote corners, Amref is one of the continent's most remarkable organisations. In addition to emergency and evacuation services by air, it has developed a network of clinics providing basic health care and immunisation on the ground.

Anne Spoerry continued flying for Amref until last year, when she was 80. She never married, but her brother François remained her closest friend; he died three weeks ago. "What sort of man would have followed me in my peregrinations?" she would ask. But she made up for an absence of family with a huge collection of loving friends, old and young. One of them, George Fegan, last Saturday gave up the burial plot he had carefully chosen for himself Michael Wood, a British plastic surgeon years ago on the Indian ocean island who had studied under Archibald McIn- of Lamu for his friend Anne Spoerry's

FIAMMETTA ROCCO

Anne Spoerry, medical practitioner: born Cannes. France 13 May 1918; died Nairobi 2 February 1999.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

Idiots, imbeciles and backward pupils

AS A result of legislation in England between 1870 and 1890 the number of pupils in elementary schools rapidly increased nearly threefold to almost five million. Attendance became compulsory and for many families this was the first sustained experience of school. Class sizes were large (not until 1909 was a maximum of 60 decreed). the curriculum was rigid, the teaching mechanical and the whole system policed by payment by results through examinations in the 3Rs.

By the mid-1880s elementary education was in crisis. A Royal Commission was established to tackle the issue. By chance another Royal Commission was also set up to consider the education of the blind, the deaf and dumb and other "exceptional" children. The backward pupil was one of these exceptions.

There was a dispute in the Commission regarding the origins of backward pupils. Dr George Shuttleworth, a superintendent of an asylum for idiots and imbeciles, regarded educable imbeciles as less deficient than idiots who were considered ineducable. In his view, idiocy and imbecility were personal characteristics.

On the other hand, Dr Francis Warner, a paediatrician who had examined thousands of London pupils as out-patients, gave the causes as mainutrition, poor eyesight, deafness, respiratory

loss of a parent or parents. He pointed to poverty and poor housing as being the origins of the backward pupil.

Legislation for the education of the blind and the deaf followed the Commission's report in 1893 and further consideration of the backward pupil was referred to a committee of the Education Department. This Committee consisted of seven members: a member of an association for the care of the feebleminded, three persons associated with the London authority and three HMIs. The department's senior staff were customarily elite Oxbridge graduates. In the published view of the then

department secretary; staff were ignorant of and indifferent to the working of elementary schools. Shuttleworth and London's medical officer were called upon to present the definition of backwardness. They confidently repeated the contingent definition of idiots being more deficient than imbeciles. Such a definition is faulty

because it has no external ref-

segregated special schools

erent such as the population at large. However, the definition was accepted and repeated in the committee's report. It also featured in the first section of the Permissive Legislation enacted in 1899. The Education Department policed the proposals for the education of backward

the department. The basic definition of a backward pupil may have been faulty but its

validity became reified in segregated special schools.
The years before the First World War witnessed a switch in demographic transition to a low birth-rate in middleclass groups but a continuing high rate amongst the lower circumstances were fertile ground for the eugenicist movement and the "moral imbecile" emerged from legislation in 1913. The moral imbecile described the boy who was quick with his school work but a persistent thief or the girl who became pregnant; the moral imbecile was simultaneously adjudged normal but abnormal.

The permissive legislation of 1899 was made obligatory in an Education Act of 1914. Who then were the backward punils? For the most part, children from lower socioeconomic classes whose parents were alien to education. Why were they so? Primarily through poverty; poor housing and ill-health compounded by the nature of the education system with its large classes and mechanical teaching methods. Their divorce from the mainstream provision was buttressed by a faulty definition of their condition.

Ian Copeland is author of 'The Making of the Backpupils and London's model of ward Pupil in Education in England, 1870-1914 (Woburn

King Hussein of Jordan

IN YOUR obituary of King Hussein (by Philip Mansel, 8 February), you are wrong in attributing the so-called coup of 13 April 1957 to Maan Abu Nuwar, writes Major-General James Lunt. This mistake is easily explained.

The Abu Nuwar family come from Salt and there were several branches. Maan belonging to one, his cousin Ali Abu Nuwar to another. Both were serving officers in the Arab Legion (Jordan's army in those days); Maan in in the desert. It was readily assumed

BIRTHS

Sarah and Andy, a son, Barnaby William, a brother for a delight-ed Benedict and Isabella, born at home on Wednesday 3 Febru-ary (8ib 13oz).

DEATHS

KERSLEY: Mrs Janet, see SIN-

SINCLAIR: Janet McLaren, author and ballet critic, died comfortably at home on Friday 5 February 1999. Funeral was held 9 February 1999 attended by Alex, John and Leo. Memorial celebration will be arranged. Donations in memory of Janet for her favoured charity c/o Mr Ed Nickless, 13 Home Close, Harlow, Essex CM20 3PD.

JEWELL / TERRINGTON: To

the rank of colonel was commanding the infantry brigade in Zerqa.

Ali was a favourite of the young king, who had promoted him from lieutenantcolonel to major-general in a few short months and appointed him Chief of the General Staff. When fighting broke out in Zerga, Maan asked for help from the king, who went there, taking Ali with him.

One of Maan's battalions was under orders to take part in an exercise out

took place, but Maan was able to show that the exercise had been planned for many weeks. On arrival at Zerqa the king was greeted enthusiastically. He had dismissed Ali and sent him back to Amman; Ali had lost his nerve.

Later Ali went into exile in Cairo with his family. It was typical of King Hussein that when, some years later, it was rumoured that Ali's life was in danger, he sent a plane to bring him back to Jor-

that this was intended to get the bat-talion out of the way while the coup nessman. The king never employed him again and he died a few years ago.

> Maan went on to become a govern ment minister, Chief of Police. Mayor of Amman, Minister in London, and a senator, a devoted subject of the king and highly respected. • The Independent and Philip Mansel

apologise unreservedly for any distress caused by this confusion to Maan Abu Nuwar and his family.

Order for substitute service granted

IN AN action for negligence against a solicitor an order for substituted service under RSC Order 65, rule 4 might be made on the Solicitors Indemnity Fund if the solicitor's whereabouts were unknown, and there was no likelihood that the writ would reach him or come to

his knowledge.
The defendant was a solicitor in sole practice who had acted for the plaintiff building society and its borrower in relation to a loan secured on a leasehold flat. The purchase was in truth a sub-purchase. and in October 1992, the borrower having defaulted in making the mortgage payments, the plaintiff resold the flat for less

The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendant, alleging negligence the plaintiff appealed.
and breach of fiduciary duty. Rupert Jackson QC and
The defendant had by that time Andrew Goodman (Curtis & been struck off the roll of solicitors for conduct unconnected with the plaintiff's claim. Apart from a belief that the defendant was living in Thailand, nothing was known about his current whereabouts. The plaintiff was granted an order for substituted service pursuant to RSC Order 65, rule 4 order for substituted service on the Solicitors Indemnity

Fund (SIF) The SIF's application to have the order for substituted service set aside was refused by the master, and the SIF appealed to the judge, relying on the rules, the King's Bench Porter v Freudenberg [1915] 1 masters had settled and adopt-KB 857 as establishing a general rule that substituted service would not be ordered where the defendant's whereabouts were unknown and substituted service should

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

10 FEBRUARY 1999

Frost (formerly Weston Frost & Co) (Solicitors Indemnity

Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker) 4 February 1999

than half the amount of the loan. that the writ would reach him or come to his knowledge. The

> Lord Justice Nourse said that at the time that Porter v

By way of supplement to

the defendant or come to his In the circumstances of

writ was not likely to reach

Abbey National plc v practising as Harold

Fund intervening)

iudge allowed the appeal, and the plaintiff appealed. Parkinson, Nottingham) for the plaintiff: Richard Seymour QC and Matthew Jackson (Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave) for the SIF.

Freudenberg was decided, an could only be made under the rules then in force if the plaintiff was unable, from any cause, to effect prompt personal service.

ed a number of principles according to which their discretion would usually be exercised, one of which was that where there was no likelihood — not generally be ordered if the

Porter v Freudenberg it was natural for the court to have ex-

pressed itself in the form of a general rule: however, expressions of opinion, no matter how eminent their source, should always be read in the light of the particular facts which oceasioned them. The views expressed in that case could not be treated as having narrowed the discretion under what was now Order 65, rule 4(1) in relation to other facts. Furthermore, under the rule

in force in 1915, the court's discretion to make such order as might seem just arose after the precondition that the plaintiff should have been unable to effect prompt personal service had been fulfilled: the second precondition derived only from a principle of discretion adopted by the masters, and it would have been incorrect to treat it as incorporated in the rule itself. In the present case, the mas-

ter had been correct in holding that, given that the purpose of the SIF was to safeguard the lay public and to protect the interests of members of the public resorting to solicitors, it was perfectly proper in suitable cases for an order for substituted service to be made on the SIF: A case was not rendered unsuitable for substituted service simply because the defendant solicitor's whereabouts were unknown and there was no likelihood that the writ would reach him or come to his knowledge. KATE O'HANLON.

Barrister

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Gracia Lafuente, "Messages in Photography",

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

WARD: Simon, died suddenly at Croft House Nursing Home on Monday 8 February 1999 aged 43 years. Husband of Mandy, loving father of Charlotte, Alex and Ed, son of Mary and the late Neville Ward. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Little Dunmow on Monday 15 February at 11am. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to "Chest, Heart and Stroke Association", c/o Daniel Robinson and Sons Ltd, Haslers Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1XS.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £8.50 a line, VAT extra.

Gresham College, at the London Oratory School, London SW6: Professor Roger Penrose, "Impossible Crystalline Patterns and How to Construct Them", 5.30pm.

BIRTHDAYS Mr Larry Adler, mouth

organist, 85; Mr Robert

GAZETTE

Alston, High Commissioner to New Zealand, 61: Mr Michael Apted, film director, 58; Field Marshal Sir Nigel Bagnall, former Chief of the General Staff, 72; Mr Peter Benson, former company chairman, 82; Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, British Midland plc, 57; Miss Olwyn Bowey, landscape and portrait painter, 63; Dr Alexander Comfort, physician, poet and novelist, 79; Miss Roberta Flack, singer, 61; Field Marshal Lord Milne, 90; Mr Greg Norman, golfer, 44; Lord Orr-Ewing, former MP, 87; Mr Nicholas Owen, television presenter and correspondent, 52; Gp Capt Sir Gordon Pirie, former Mayor of Westminster, 80; Miss Leontyne Price, soprano, 72; Sir Idwal Pugh, former

Lord Justice of Appeal, 62; Mr Mark Spitz, swimmer, 49; Mr Robert Wagner,

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Boris Leonidovich Pasternak, novelist, 1890: Jimmy (James Francis) "Schnozzola" Durante, comedian, 1893; Maurice Harold Macmillan, first Earl of Stockton, statesman and publisher, 1894; Bertolt Brecht (Eugen Berthold Friedrich), playwright and poet, 1898; Joyce Irene Grenfell, actress, writer and entertainer, 1910. Deaths: Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin, author, 1837; Edgar Richard Horatio Wallace, thriller writer, 1932. On this day: "Pay As You Earn" income tax was introduced. 1944. Today is the Feast Day of St Austreberta, St Scholastica, St Soteris, St Trumwin and St William of Maleval.

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Prince of Wales opens the General Osteopathic Council Building, Tower Bridge Road, London, SEI. The Princess Royal, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, visits the Scottish Apparel Group, Portland Place, London W1; as Patron, the Home Farm Trust, attends a meeting at Mitsubishi Electric pic, Kierran Cross, London WC2; as President, Royal Yachting Association, attends a Yachting Association, attends a Council Meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, London SW1; and presents the Whitley Award Scheme for International Conservation awards at the Royal Geographical Society, London SW7.
Princess Margaret, President,
the Birmingham Royal Ballet,
attends the London premiere of The Prospect Before Us and The Protecting Veil at the new Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nijmegen Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11-30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

IT SOUNDS unduly cloacal. Elyse Kaye of Haggerty Enterprises, Inc complains that I wrote of "Lava World International™ Haggerty Enterprises' product ... the Lavas brand motion lamp, which you referred to as a 'lava lamp' . . . it is

WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

motion lamp, n.

We realise that may seem like quite a mouthful, yet important that our prodwe want to ensure that in the future your publication uct be referred to as the Lava² brand motion lamp.

as a 'lava lamp', not even

Is Ms Kaye an A.N. Wilson practical joke? No, Haggerty exists, and "lava lamp" is not in the OED (but is in OUP's Canadian dictionary). What a job, to scour the world's press for lava doesn't refer to any product lamps - and get in a lather*.

In fact, I was quoting a

splendid Lorrie Moore story.

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2011) or fax to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number.

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Knowing where - and how - to shop is the key to stylish dressing. And we're not talking Bond Street, says Melanie Rickey



Scarf (worn as top), £5, Levi's jeans, £34.99, belt, £9.99, shoes, £19.99, all from Rokit, 225 Camden High Street, London NW1 (enquiries 0171-267 3046); 23 Kensington Gardens, Brighton (enquiries 01273-672 053)

Gucci? No, darling, it's Oxfam

ight years ago, while sitting in the middle of a tonne of dusty second-hand clothes. I had an epiphany There I was, straight out of school, choosing to spend my year out working in a smelly warehouse filled to the rafters with second-hand clothes. Old jeans, suits, shirts, ties, bags, shoes, dresses, skirts, nylon tracksuits - I sorted them all, "Absolutely fabulous" and 'groovy" went into the store I worked for, Rokit, who imported the clothes from the US; "average" was sold to Ghanaian market traders.

The day-to-day work was nothing mpared to the indescribable rush of pleasure (my epiphany) that acmpanied the discovery of a gem: a Thirties hand-made tea dress, a Salvador Dali hand-painted tie, a pair of selvedge-riveted 501's, an old Yves Saint Laurent polka-dot blouse, a Chanel handbag, bejewelled Ferragamo kitten-heeled sandals...

My list of "finds" is now endless, but it was when I found the Yves Saint Laurent blouse in a pile of old polyester that I became hooked.

It's the same story for everyone with a passion for second-hand clothes – and there are plenty of us. Fortunately our addiction has positive points: it is the best way to look good on a budget, donate money to charity and recycle, and, even better, the only way to look truly individual.

Since 1990 the number of charity shops on the high street has increased by two-thirds, to 5,000, and turnover has more than doubled, to £300m. Indeed the pastime has become a trend in itself, today there is even a magazine, Cheap Date, dedicated to the art of fashion-oriented second-hand shopping.



Suede top with blanket stitch, £19.99, shell bag, £9.99, from Oxfam Original, 432 King's Road, SW10 (0171-351 7979)

One of the few charities to target this market is Oxfam, which in spring 1998 introduced a new concept to its shops - Oxfam Origins. From today the four standalone stores, and 29 nation-wide concessions, have been renamed Oxfam Original - and they are chock full of fashionable, wellpriced "finds". Recent high-street cast-offs rub hangers with Sixties. Seventies and Eighties gear, all carefully chosen, then mended and cleaned, from tonnes of donated clothes. "We are targeting the young fashion-conscious audience who want second-hand clothes, with a clean and modern way to buy them,"

says Rachel Fleming, of Oxfam. So far the project has been a resounding success, and helped Oxfam raise their profits to £15m last year. True aficionados, however, will

place to make a discovery. Car boot sales, jumble sales, local weekly markets and charity shops in towns away from student strongholds provide much richer pickings.

Kira Joliffe, the editor of Cheap Date, is the ultimate thrifter. "I think it's the paradox of being really into fashion, but not wanting to be a slave to it," she says of her obsession. "Ultimately it's about individuality, and with Cheap Date I hope to give people the confidence to try out clothes they wouldn't normally buy." Thrifting is also an excellent way

to keep up to date with fashion trends. All the clothes featured here are relevant to recent catwalk offerings, and were sourced during one week of looking the length and breadth of London, Outside London the pickings are even better.

A bright, Pucci-inspired print scarf becomes a top, and when worn with a Native-Indian-inspired belt, dark jeans and lime-green sandals it owes more than a nod to Tom Ford's homage to a late-Seventies Cher, as do the blanket-stitched suede top and shell handbag. The black Hungarian embroidered shirt fits perfectly with the peasant/Gypsy trend.

Which leaves the last, and most expensive find, the Twenties tea dress. At £550 it is not cheap - but today's hand-sewn, bias-cut equivalent by, say, John Galliano would cost thousands. We found it in Virginia's, in Portland Place, which many of the world's top fashion designers visit twice yearly for inspiration. Here's a fashion thrifter's joke.

Woman goes to a party in a fabulous dress. Someone asks where it's from. She replies: "From a fabulous store called Sue Ryder." (To be pronounced Ridier. To which the inquirer retell you that Oxfam is not the best marks "Oh Sue Ridier, is she new?"



Vintage chiffon Twenties print tea dress, £550, pistachio camiknickers, £110, from Virginia's Antiques, 98 Portland Road, London W11 (enquiries 0171-727 9908)



Embroidered shirt, £10, from Greenwich Market, SE London. Photographer: Anna Stevenson. Stylist: Holly Wood. Hair: Craig Mason for Toni & Guy. Make-up: Michelle Marsh for Clinique. Model: Lisa Ratliffe, Select

Their future is all sewn up

No big names at London Men's Fashion Week, but there soon will be. By Belinda Morris



David 4 February 1999 STEPHEN FEARIGIN (A

Paul Smith and Vivienne Westwood will never abandon Paris and Milan for London, those hot favourites and media darlings John Rocha and John Richmond did put their faith into London Men's Fashion Week and, in doing so, ensured it a certain level of clout.

Century Kilts and Bent & Corrupt who perpetuated the internationally held understanding that a lot of very creative stuff comes out of Britain.

Warren Kade is, in fact, not a man but a girl, PJ Kim Warren, and her male partner Kade Uawithya, and the label promises to be one to watch. Hatched from the internationally acclaimed Royal College of Art and Central St Martin's, it

Valentines Gifts

The collection was an exuberant rock-star fantasy mixed with performance kit, classic tailoring and streetwear. The key seasonal trends were there (drawstrings, hip-slung pants, plenty of grey, raw edges, funnel necklines) but hardly overstated in a dictatorial way.

on individual statements, even mixing vintage items (tailcoats) and Levi's jeans. Huge, shaggy goat-hair collars, sheepskin gilets over shirts, sailor pants, traditional mas-culine fabrics for sporty pieces, quirky details such as mock ivory teeth fixed to trousers all contributed to a cheeky, appealing and wearable look.

Their emphasis was clearly

We're feeling ecstatic the response has been so fantastic," says PJ. "Our as DA Lilliard - too mid-

espite the fact that it was surprise new entries has success written all over it. Italian production company Nineties to be taken seriously. and teal accessories at designers such as such as Warren Kade, 21st. The collection was an exub- wanted us to show in Milan. Far more relevant here is the Costelloe: honey and gream wanted us to show in Milan, but I'm so happy that we stuck out for London. The collection has already sold to stores in Japan, Hong Kong, America, Italy and Spain, as well as

Vertice in London."

Incidentally, Warren Kade shares an Italian showroom with Matthew Williamson, Clements Ribeiro and Helmut Lang - so the firm's in good

So what about the rest of the clothes? Small and low-key it may have been, but London Men's Fashion Week was pretty forthcoming with the critical fin de siècle trends, if you leave aside Boatenginspired sharp, skinny suits with bright linings and tricky detailing from designers such

Far more relevant here is the laid-back, streetwear-meetssportswear-meets-formal-wear hybrid that is collectively tagged "urban sportswear" for simplicity's sake.

Wherever I looked, both on and off the catwalk, there was a sea of grey (yes, it's still a goer) and any man I spoke to admitted that he could easily imagine himself in any of the slate, dove, elephant, charcoal, anthracite combinations, with perhaps a little black or white

thrown in for light relief. But the collections that stood out were those that had gone a little more wild with the colour palette: muted pastel knits at Bent & Corrupt; teal and oxblood at All Saints; hot pink and orange under Richmond's grey jackets; claret Costelloe; honey and cream sweaters at Rocha and red leather at Warren Kade.

Amid this sea of monochromatic practicality was one name having a laugh with fashion. The crowds flocked to 21st Century Kilts (sponsored by Timberland), where real men with great calf muscles sat around all day in denim/tweed/metallic/sheer plastic/Chinese/satin kilts.

Never a dull moment, and it left us all wondering exactly what a millennium man should wear under his kilt.

Since they were true Scotsmen, however, the answer was not forthcoming. But I could have sworn I saw some bare flesh through that plastic kilt. Luckily a sporran kept me

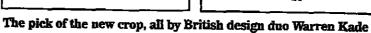


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I was a Tantric sex slave

For years June Campbell was the 'consort' of a senior Tibetan Buddhist monk. She was threatened with death if she broke her vow of secrecy. But then enlightenment can be like that. By Paul Vallely

et of ciay? No, it was a different part of the anatomy - and of all too fleshly substance which caused the trouble. But, I suppose, you don't expect Tantric sex to be a straightforward activity. Then again, sex of any kind isn't really what you're planning when you become a celibate nun.

It was, said June Campbell as she began her lecture, only the second time she had been asked to give a talk to a Buddhist group in this country since her book, Traveller in Space, came out three years ago. Small won-der. The topic of her talk was "Dissent in Spiritual Communities", and you don't get much more potent types of dissent than hers. For she not only revealed that she had for years been the secret sexual consort of one of the most holy monks in Tibetan Buddhism - the tulku (re-incarnated lama), Kalu Rinpoche. She also insisted that the abuse of power at the heart of the relationship exposed a flaw at the very heart of Tibetan Buddhism.

This was heresy, indeed. To outsiders, the Rimpoche was one of the most revered yogi-lamas in exile outside Tibet. As abbot of his own monastery, he had taken vows of celibacy and was celebrated for having spent 14 years in solitary retreat. Among his students were the highestranking lamas in Tibet. "His own status was unquestioned in the Tibetan community," said Ms Campbell, "and his holiness attested to by all." The inner circles of the world of

Tibetan Buddhism - for all its spread in fashionable circles in the West - is a closed and tight one. Her claims, though made in a restrained way in the context of a deeply academic book subtitled "In Search of Female Identity in Tibetan Buddhism", provoked what he described as a primitive outpouring of rage and fury. "I was reviled as a liar or a demon," she said during a public lecture last week at the nonsectarian College for Buddhist Studies in Sharpham, Devon. "In that world he was a saintly figure. It was like claiming that Mother Teresa was involved in making porn movies."

But it was not fear of the response which made her wait a full 18 years before publishing her revelations in a volume entitled Traveller in Space – a translation of dakini, the rather poetic Tibetan word for a woman used by a lama for sex. It took her that long to get over the trauma of the experience. "I spent 11 years without talking about it and then, when I had decided to write about it, another seven years researching. I wanted to weave together my personal experience with a more theoretical understanding of the role of women in Tibetan society to help me make sense of what had happened to me."

What happened was that, having become a Buddhist in her native Scotland in the hippie Sixties, she travelled to India where she became a mm. She spent 10 years in a Tibetan monastery and penetrated more deeply than any



An 18th-19th century sculpture of the Tantric characters Hejvari and Cakti Charles Lenars/Corbis

other Westerner into the faith's esoteric hierarchy. Eventually she became personal translator to the guru as, during the Seventies, he travelled through Europe and America. It was after that, she said, that "he requested that I become his sexual consort and take part in secret activities with him".

Only one other person knew of the relationship – a second monk – with whom she took part in what she described as a polyandrous Tibetanstyle relationship. "It was some years before I realised that the extent to which I had been taken advantage of constituted a kind of abuse."

The practice of Tantric sex is more ancient than Buddhism. The idea goes back to the ancient Hindus who believed that the retention of semen during intercourse increased sexual pleasure and made men live longer. The Tibetan Buddhists developed the belief that enlightenment could be accelerated by the decision "to enlist the passions in one's religious practice, rather than to avoid them". The strategy is considered extremely risky yet so efficacious that it could lead to

enlightenment in one lifetime.

Monks of a lower status confined themselves to visualising an imaginary sexual relationship during meditation. But, her book sets out, the "masters" reach a point where they decide that they can engage in sex without

'The reverse of ordinary sex expresses the relative status of the male and female within the ritual'

being tainted by it. The instructions in the so-called "secret" texts spell out the methods which enable the man to control the flow of semen through yogic breath control and other practices. The idea is to "drive the semen upwards, along the spine, and into the head". The more semen in a man's head, the stronger intellectually and

spiritually he is thought to be.

More than that, he is said to gain additional strength from absorbing the woman's sexual fluids at the same time as withholding his own. This "reverse of ordinary sex", said June Campbell, "expresses the relative status of the male and female within the ritual, for it signals the power flowing from the woman to the man".

The imbalance is underscored by the insistence by such guru-lamas that their sexual consorts must remain secret, allowing the lamas to maintain control over the women. "Since the book was published, I've had letters from women all over the world with

So why did she stay for almost three years? "Personal prestige. The women believe that they too are special and holy. They are entering sacred space. It produces good karma for future lives, and is a test of faith."

The combination of religion, sex, power and secrecy can have a potent effect. It creates the Catch 22 of psychological blackmail set out in the words of another lama, Beru Kyhentze

Rinpoche: "If your guru acts in a seem-ingly unenlightened manner and you feel it would be hypocritical to think him a Buddha, you should remember nm a suddina, you should remember that your own opinions are unreliable and the apparent faults you see may only be a reflection of your own deluded state of mind... If your guru acted in a completely perfect manner he would be inaccessible and you would be able to relate to him. It is therefore out of your Guru's great compassion that he may show ap-

The psychological pressure is often increased by making the woman swear vows of secrecy. In addition, June Campbell was told that "madness, trouble or even death" could follow if she did not keep silent.

parent flaws... He is mirroring your

"I was told that in a previous life the lama I was involved with had had a mistress who caused him some trouble, and in order to get rid of her he cast a spell which caused her illness, later resulting in her death.

There are those Buddhists, like Martine Batchelor - who spent 10 years as a Zen Buddhist min in a Korean monastery and who now teaches at Sharpham College - who insist the religious techniques the Buddha taught can be separated from the sexist, patriarchal and oppressive culture of many Buddhist countries. But June Campbell is not convinced.

"You have to ask what is the relationship between belief and how a society structures itself," she said. In Tibetanism, power lies in the hands of men who had often been traumatised by being removed from their mothers at the age of two and taken to an allmale monastery. "Some were allowed visits from their mothers and sisters but always in secrecy - so that they came to associate women with what must be hidden."

But there is more to it, she believes. than that. Teaching at Sharpham last week she gave the students a whole range of material about different kinds of feminism - from the political to the psychotherapeutic. She then asked them how it relates to the fact that there are no female Buddha images, or to why in Tantric sex images the woman always has her back to the viewer, or to why Buddhist women are told to pray that they will be reborn into a male body in their next life - for only in a man's body can they attain full

"Once I started unravelling my experiences, I began to question everything," she said. That meant not just the actions of a particular guru, but the very idea of the guru. She began to wonder whether the Tantra was just a fantasy, and whether there is really any difference between Tantric sex and ordinary sex. She questioned the very concept of enlightenment itself and the practice of meditation. "I realised that in order to be myself I had to leave it all - completely and utterly."

Traveller in Space' is published by The Athlone Press at £17.99

THE IRRITATIONS OF MODERN LIFE

29. ARTHOUSE CINEMAS BY EMMA COOK



THEY ARE a Mecca for the highbrow middle-classes They can be twee and trendy; like London's Ritzy, Screen On The Green and Coronet, or as wholesome as brown bread; the National Film Theatre.

Either way, they're no fun. elite clubs for those "fans' who believe that film is wasted on the masses. Or, at least, unwatchable alongside them. As liberal, Godard-loving types, they'd probably deny it, yet this lot would rather burn their Pauline Kaels than sit through Titanic at their local multiplex.

"People eat popcorn all the time and they always talk," whinges an NFT aficionado who once said he wished that entry to arthouse cinemas could be more rigorous – such as a film-knowledge test for a year's membership.

He last stepped into his local Odeon two years ago. It was such a traumatic experience, he's never been near one since. "It had that awful sickly, saccharine smell in the foyer: And people laughed when it wasn't even funny.' Well. it was Hal Hartley. (Note: Arthouse cinema humour has to be ironic, extremely referential and deeply disapproving of films like There's Something About Mary and Dumb and Dumber. Until they decide to run a Farrelly brothers retrospective in, oh, about five years' time.)

And so, my friend scuttles back to the filmas-art cocoon that is the NFT; to a worthy diet of Fassbinder retrospectives. carrot-cake and coffee. No Pearl & Dean. No plush purple seats with plastic drink-holders, Instead. there's Scandanavian-style wooden floors, hard seating (to stop you nodding off during that new Eisenstein print,

perhaps), carrot-cake and the resonant aroma of stale black coffee.

I can barely drag myself into the foyer of these places without feeling as though I'm back at school and being forced to attend a double maths lesson. Perhaps it's that whiff of "film-as-education" that galls; those limp NFT screening notes that cobble together some outdated reviews. Or is it the lackiustre foyer-chat among earnest trendies in little round glasses and pointy beards? Who'd want to spend a Saturday night with this lot and a load of subtitles?

A certain sort of oneupmanship also comes with the territory. "You must go and see Abel Gance's Nopoleon. It's silent, but they had this wonderful pianist..." And then there's the little matter of what they screen; almost always retrospectives; Fassbinder, Hitchcock, Bergman and the like. Classics, maybe. But there's little diversity and even less risk - the recent Carry On season at the NFT, for example, reeked of tokenism.

It's not the choice of films that really irks, but the attitudes that run alongside. For some reason, arthouse cinemas and their audiences just can't bear the American instinct for popular entertainment. It's a sorry contradiction, since these places owe their being to commercial cinema. Yet the arthouse theatre will always be a retreat for purists who believe that comfort and frivolity doesn't figure in film aesthetics. Only the British could reduce something so pleasurable into such an earnest and worthy pastime. Pass the popcorn, somebody, and, please, spare me the

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No more patrons pending

The Royals are giving up the free gaspers. What else can they do without? By Nick Lezard

THERE'S SOMETHING comforting about a royal warrant. One of the nice things about the honorific was the way it brought the Queen into your own home. You could look at a jar of Robertson's jam and ulanow that, if she ever came round for tea, your crumpets wouldn't make her feel depressed and homesick.

It also brought you into the Royal Household. There are more than 1,000 products with the royal warrant, including Brasso, It's made by Reckitt & Colman of London, which also makes air fresheners and laundry products. Goddard's Long Term Silver Polish, too. And they both say "By appointment to Her Majesty the Queen", so you know that it really is the Queen who polishes the silver on Sunday evenings while watching the telly.

It was the idea that the Queen was human - in express contradiction to her constitutional position as head of state - that made the royal warrant appealing even to republicans ke myself. And so the removal of the royal warrant from packets of Benson & Hedges, Silk Cut, and other tobacco products made by Gallaher, is rather saddening. We could imagine The Firm of an evening, puffing on their fags, drinking Brasso from crystal glasses and pouring gin on the dogs, and imagine a vital link between ourselves and our ruling family. If the Queen drinks/ smokes/ spreads this fish paste on her toast, it can't be bad for you, can it?



If a princess smoked this brand, it can't be bad for you, can it?' Nunn Syndication Andover, Hants, washes the

Of course, there is no rule that a royal warrant is going to guarantee commercial success. Hatchards used to have a royal warrant but lost it when they started selling what one newspaper describes as "soft pornography", whatever that means, anyway, it would appear that the royals don't buy books from anyone any more.

The problem with the Royal Family is that since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales it has suddenly become keen on the idea of bringing itself up to date. And while there is a rationale behind withdrawal of the royal warrant - that members of the family and their

guests don't touch the weed any more - the withdrawal of the Prince's underpants and is now warrant from Gallaher appears to be very much in touch with the spirit of the times: this is one family desperate to at least

look, sound and smell modern. The irony being, of course, that if the Royal Family really wanted to modernise itself, it'd stop being the Royal Family and

Still, we should at least be grateful that the royal warrant survives on unhealthy products such as gin and guns (Purdey, naturally). A Suffolk sausage-maker called Musk's holds the royal warrant for sausages. Anton Laundry in

privileged few: they reckon that a couple of dozen free containers of jam or fags are well spent, since there are still a number of people who feel that the crest confers class, as well as those who acknowledge the quaint absurdity, the touchingly inept commercialism of the whole system. But there is one area where the royal warrant is becoming

As a marketing tool, it must be considered effective by the

highly troubling, far more so than the tobacco question. And that is in the case of purveyors of creative imagination to the Royal Family: in other words, the Poet Laureate. This, as a poem published yesterday by Tony Harrison makes clear, is a position he would run a mile in tight shoes to avoid.

Worse: his verse rejection is an impressive act of lesemajesté. He would, he says, rather be "free not to have to puff some prince's wedding./ free to say up yours to Tony Blair, to write an ode on Charles I's beheading/ and regret the restoration of his heir."

That we can still read that and say it has taken balls to write it shows how far we have to go. And if, one day, a manufacturer can turn round to a royal at the counter and say: "If you don't mind, we'd rather not have your patronage" that is, not to be associated with a world of uncarned privilege, unearned wealth and unearned respect - then it will show that we are finally beginning to



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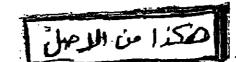
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allowed to brag about this. Employees make a 100-mile

round trip to and from High-

grove, which either means that

they are superb at their job - or

else HRH should get a copy of

is the royal taxidermist. The

"At-a-Glance" Calendar Com-

pany makes the calendars.

Valerie M Bennett-Levy of

Hindhead makes its nosegays.

Robin Tuke of Haslemere sup-

plies Prince Charles's mobile

phones, although I have a feel-

ing that he hasn't always done

W Forbes of Aberdeenshire

the Yellow Pages).

come up with as many as

the efficiency of your

search engine and the

phase of the moon. Only

Hamlet, among literary names, will yield

more. Emily Bronte indubitably invented

the name by fusing two topographical elements; her heirs, like Shakespeare's,

you'd be surprised how many building

firms use it), there are rich oddities for the

connoisseur to relish. A homepage, for ex-

ample, that argues with paranoid urgency

that Xena, Warrior Princess (she of the

thighs like Doric columns) was "obviously" inspired by Heathcliff. I can't see it my-

Academics add their own distinctive

craziness. The Emily Bronte homepage

lists learned articles and monographs

"proving" that Heathcliff is Irish (was the

novel not published in 1847 - the year of

the Famine?), that he is black (does not Nelly call him "swarthy"?) and that he is

Earnshaw's illegitimate child (thus ren-

dering his relationship with Cathy inces-

tuous). There is, it seems, something

about this novel that turns otherwise sen-

in cyberspace in February 1999 are, how-

ever, attributable to two sources. One is the

achievement on the baseball diamond of

that rising star, Heathcliff Slocumb - 220

pounds of 20-year-old muscle with a gold-

en right arm. Heathcliff, pitcher extraor-

dinaire, has just signed a one-year contract

with the Baltimore Orioles for a million dol-

I would like to think, after watching a re-

run on TV in the early Seventies of the

black and white Laurence Olivier/Sam

Goldwyn film. There is, one might conjec-

ture, a certain intensity about young

Slocumb's dead eyes and an aggressive jut

of the chin which recalls Larry at his

fiercest. Attractive as the hypothesis is,

there is a less romantic explanation. Thir-

ty years ago a New York advertising man,

Mr and Mrs Slocumb named their boy,

lars a year. He is, as they say, hot.

The bulk of the items swirling around

sible critics' wits to porridge.

self but GallusMag@aol.com can.

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real tin

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them t

solitary voice. In The Stronger directed by Timothy Sheader, two women meet, The older of the two (Mrs. X) seems to be offering tea

There is, though, something gloating and suspects the other of

un a web search on George "Gately" Gallagher, resolved to have, I would have to score Cliff-Heathcliff "Heathcliff" and you may

Best of brood

English fiction has no more potent character than Heathcliff. John Sutherland compares versions of Emily Brontë's anti-hero

break into the cartoon business. Disney had sewn up (and trademarked) mice and dogs. Gately opted for a friend-1,000 hits, depending on ly cat with a sinister name. It was a brilliant gimmick. Heathcliff was the first solo-cat to feature in a long-running comic strip. The name, with its heavy literary baggage, was irresistible. Dubbed the Cat of the Century (edging out Tom of Tom-and-Jerry, Garfield and Felix) Heathcliff has might wish she had trademarked it. Among all the banalities and opportunists

been phenomenally successful. Millions of furry friends have been named in his honour. He is syndicated (and the name at last trademarked) in over a thousand newspapers worldwide. He has been animated in more than 80 television shows, and there are over a million Heathcliff books in print. Heathcliff cartoons, it is proudly recorded, have even hung on the

Heathcliff can instantly switch from irresistible charm to cold savagery

walls of the Louvre in Paris alongside Mona Lisa. My guess is that some of those drawings amused Mr and Mrs Slocumb as they were thinking of a name for their child.

Heathcliff is an appropriate name for a cat. Appropriate, because cats can instantly switch from irresistible charm to cold savagery. They are, although the most home exploiting of pets, the least do-mesticated. They despise us, and we love them. Pure Heathcliff.

George Gately's mog is, it must be confessed, the least feral of felines. I like to think of the Heathcliffs that have been spawned over the years on a "cosiness" scale of one to 10: one being as nasty as you can get and 10 as cuddly as you can get. Heathcliff the cat scores nine. He's tubby, jolly and - need one ask? - neutered.

I must confess I didn't see Cliff Richard's Heathcliff musical, although his four websites (all of which go out of their way to call him Sir Cliff) think extremely well of it. They are not, of course, the former Harry Webb's sternest critics. On the evidence I

at around eight. Nine when he sings. Ten when when he sings hymns. And, unworthy as it is, I can't help wondering if, like Heathcliff the cat, he lacks some of the necessary physical equipment.

And what about the most venerable Heathcliff of them all, Laurence Olivier? The greatest of our 20th-century actors. Olivier was capable of creating a subtext to the parts that Hollywood thrust on him, subversively suggesting more than the scriptwriters ever meant him to. In closeups Olivier projects a kind of glinting venom that still chills - particularly in Cathy's death scene. When he turns it on, Olivier can score as low as three. A Heath-

cliff con cojones, as Hemingway would say. I always thought Timothy Dalton's TV Heathcliff of 1970 underrated. There's a stillness about his acting which makes him look wooden when action is required (was there ever a less dynamic James Bond?). But he can brood very effectively. His portrayal of adolescent Heathcliff, the most mixed-up teen in literary history, was most impressive. I'd rate Dalton at two and a bit. Getting very close to the real stuff but not quite violent enough.

Still swirling around on the Net are the lyrics and music to Kate Bush's "Wuthering Heights", the song that launched her career in January 1978 (and sold a record number of Emily Bronte's novel in the same year). Underneath the shricks which are Ms Bush's contribution to contemporary culture, the words can be read less as an anthem of love than as the refrain of a battered and abandoned wife: You had a temper like my jealousy! Too hot, too greedy! How could you leave me! When I needed to possess you! I hated you, I loved you too! Cruel Heathcliff, my one dream! My only master! Every woman, as Sylvia Plath put it, adores a fascist, the boot in the face (what a terrific Heathcliff Ted Hughes would have made).

Kate Bush, like no actress, captures the screaming pain that Heathcliff inflicts on women. If only she could have been cast opposite the nastiest of Heathcliffs - Ralph Fiennes in the 1992 TV version. Him raving in his mad scenes and her raving in her ghastly-ghostly grief would make a won-



derful duet. Two for Ms Bush and Mr Fi-

ennes as the Heathcliff fantasy team. And whose version scores highest? Whose is purest, nastiest essence of Heathcliff? Emily Brontë's, of course.

When he returns to Wuthering Heights after his mysterious exile, Heathcliff has become someone very cruel. He left an uncouth but essentially humane stable-lad. He returns a gentleman psychopath. His subsequent brutalities are graphically recorded. They are many, and very unpleasant. Heathcliff beats his wife Isabella. "You'd hear of odd things, if I lived alone with that mawkish, waxen face," he tells

Cathy before he claims his bride. "The most ordinary would be painting on its white the colours of the rainbow, and turning the blue eyes black, every day or two." Which, indeed he does. For good measure he throws a kitchen knife at her, scarring her for life.

Heathcliff has no compunction about punching young Catherine when he finds her hoarding a miniature of her father (which he takes pleasure in grinding underfoot). Young Heathcliff is watching.,

"I winked." he tells Neily. "I wink to see my father strike a dog, or a horse, he does it so hard." On a casual level. Heathcliff is given to killing household pets (he stran-

gles his wife's favourite dog by way of a wedding present) and desecrates graves. Bronte's Heathcliff, we may assume, is not a nice man. And, in a later age, his violence against women and lawlessness would have earned him a prison sentence - or, at the very least, a string of restraining orders and court injunctions. And yes, he is a murderer.

Professor John Sutherland is the author of 'Was Heathcliff A Murderer?' and will talk this evening on Versions of Heathcliff at the Voice Box at Royal Festival Hall, London SE1, 7.30pm (0171-960 4242)

ON THE FRINGE

THE STRONGER/THE SOUND OF SILENCE GRACE THEATRE THE RAPE OF LUCRECE UNION THEATRE

THE MONOLOGUE is perhaps the most theatre, but a common failing is that although what is said by a solo character may be well said, there is often no good reason for it

being said at all. **Both August Strindberg** in The Stronger (1899) and Jean Cocteau in Le Bel Indifferent (1940) provide a simple justification for their monologists' utterances: there is someone else present. As this double-bill powerfully illustrates, this isn't simply a matter of convenience: it greatly intensifies the drama of the

and sympathy to an actress friend (Miss Y) who, we learn, is coping with the end of a relationship and loss of her job.

angrily valedictory about the speaker's manner: she having had an affair with her husband. The more she talks, the more marked Miss Y's silence becomes. thus unsettling the balance of power. As Mrs X,

Christina Greatrex suggests a brave assurance that can't quite fight off distress. Claire McCarron's Miss Y is perfectly understated: she could be listening intently, or be miles away.

Anthony Wood's The Sound of Silence, a version of Cocteau's Piaf-inspired Le Bel Indifferent, makes you appreciate it as both a theatrical experiment and a blistering study in human cruelty. In Guy Retallack's production, the timberframe café door from The Stronger is eleverty recycled as the balcony window out of which Irina Diva's singer threatens to

hurl herself, having failed to elicit so much as a murmur from her indifferent. unfaithful lover. Diva, a Bulgarian, has the kind of plaintive, cracked voice that you imagine a distraught continental cabaret star should have.

but it's the scenario's collusive force that sustains interest. You realise to your horror that you don't want her slobby other half to open his mouth. Anything he said would lessen her theatrically splendid

isolation.

The Rape of Lucrece might be thought too wordy to work on stage. But Theresa Shiban's adaptation convinces otherwise. She boldly carves up the overwrought lines among seven actors. who use stylised movement to get across the thrust of the story (Lucrece's rape by Tarquin and consequent suicide), and the characters' anguished deliberations about life and

Shakespeare's poem

The weird, exotic sounds supplied by two musicians underscores the noble intent: all welcome, not just

The Stronger: The Sound of Silence" (0171-794 0022) London SW11 to 21 Feb: 'The Rape of Lucrece' (0171-261 9876) SE1 to 27 Feb

Nuclear physicists have feelings too

The play's austere concen-

MICHAEL FRAYN'S Codenhagen is busy collecting every gong in sight. It has already swept up the Evening Standard and the Critics' Circle awards for best drama. If my experience is anything to go by - I found a copy of the play bizarrely shelved next to the Blue Guide to Denmark in my local library - it can only be a matter of time before it walks away with the £1,000 Living-

stone Award for Travel Writing. The play's West End transfer with the same consummate cast (David Burke, Sara Kestelman and Matthew Marsh) fully confirms the justice of all this. You might imagine that the most striking difference in the shift from studio theatre would be the configuration of stage and audience. One of the play's great virtues is, after all, its ab-

THEATRE **DUCHESS THEATRE** LONDON

its lens on characters who are arguing, in some stark limbo beyond the grave, about what really transpired when the German nuclear physicist Werner Heisenberg made his mysterious, fateful, inconclusive visit to his former teacher, Niels Bohr, in Nazi-occupied Copenhagen in 1941. Was his aim to try to warn the older man of the German atomic bomb programme or to recruit him for it; to give or to filch? And was Heisenberg's role in the slowing down of that programme evidence of virtue or scientific

tration was heightened by placing the action on a bare circular set with part of the audience on steeply raked seats at the back like jurors in a never-ending trisolute purity of focus. It trains bunal. Yet the Duchess Theatre has such an intimate lectureroom atmosphere that the same conditions are easily reproduced. Seeing it again, I was struck by how powerfully it engages the feelings as well as the intellect, a fact perhaps originally under-emphasised.

For it is much more than a cerebral thriller about the shifting interpretations of that crucial meeting. It's also much more than just Sartre's Huis Clos rewritten for people with a PhD in atomic physics. Delicately applying Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle to his own life and to life in general,



More than a cerebral thriller

the play is a profound and haunting meditation on the mysteries of human motivation. It is also a poignant love. story of sorts, the older scientist seeking, and then feeling betrayed by, a substitute son.

production is wonderfully attentive to the play's recurring rhythms, as this trio endlessly re-enact the momentous en-

PAUL TAYLOR

Busin

ch

Young, gifted and Swedish

admitted in his introductions, there is a note of fraudulence about trumpeter Anders Bergcrantz and his quartet appearing in the Swedish Jazz Extravaganza, an event which is dominating the jazz calendar in London this week. Two members of the band come from Denmark.

Barnes, though, all four men seemed quite at home, and the society-dressed group warmed apologetic vigour. Bergerantz, like most of the leading young voices in European jazz, is

TV: ROBERT

HANKS

TURN TO PAGE 18

got his staff to

oink rabbits

dress up as giant

To stamp out the dangerous habit

of thinking, Adrian

AS HE rather sheepishly scarcely known here, but his several records - mostly on the Stockholm-based Dragon label - are full of bountiful music, and this London début was an unassumingly exciting occasion.

It's a daring thing for a trum-peter to lead a rhythm section by himself, without the valuable prop of a second horn player as confidante and balance, but On a freezing night in one never missed another voice, so graceful and inventive was the leader's playing. If his albums suggested a cutting, up a curious audience with unperson he consistently took a more measured line without

JAZZ ANDERS BERGCRANTZ **BULLS HEAD** LONDON

quality which is a trumpeter's birthright. Opening with "Invi-tation", a sophisticate's choice of standard, he respectfully set out all the contours of the son - the other authentic melody before building a long, complex, but logical improvisation out of it.

That was the pattern for the night, with solo space generously allotted and the players but they certainly remind you consistently justifying their as to why it is still able to surrendering the incendiary time Pianist Carsten Dahluses sound so exciting.

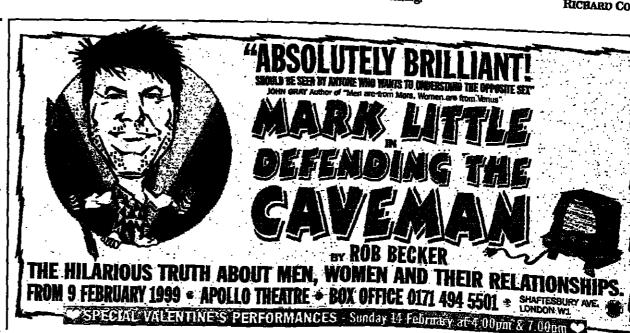
a compendium of styles that he melds together so forcefully that one forgets about the derivations and enjoys his in-fectious brio. Kaspar Vadsholt is the antithesis to the doggedly laidback bassman role. A frenzied puppet of a man, he animated the bandstand by himself. Drummer Peter Nils-Swede - refused to take any solo limelight, but frequently beat six-dozen bells out of his

kit. They do nothing that jazz hasn't already heard before.

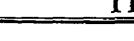
A slight figure, Bergcrantz gets a smooth and unruffled sound out of the horn, and he's in the tradition of the legato melodists of hard bop, such as Freddie Hubbard and Woody Shaw. A flugelhorn ballad called "I Won Her Heart" was all shining sweetness. But "Marie Antoinette", a rarely exposed Wayne Shorter time, was about as severe and abstract as hard bop can get, and they played "Impressions" at a tempo as fast as anyone's ever done it: and it proved itself a superb piece of brinkmanship by the whole band.

RICHARD COOK

ONE OF THE BEST NEW PLAYS OF THE YEAR' 'A bracing Liverpool tragi-comedy that confronts awkward home truths with refreshing honesty This play contains explicit language which some people may find offensive Cottesloe: 15, 16, 25, 26 Feb, 1 & 2 Mar at 7.30pm, 17 & 27 Feb at 2.30pm & 7.30pm & continuing Royal National Theatre Box Office 0171-452 3000



THE RELEASE WAY REVEN





Some building societies offer 'green mortgages' on homes built to specified minimum standards of energy conservation

Dragon News

The moral maison

How ethical is your mortgage? Here's how to ensure it's in line with your standards. By Iain Morse

ment many of us ever make. Ethically minded home-owners face tricky choices when it comes to selecting a loan that meets their moral standards. A clear understanding of how mortgage lenders differ in their overall business policies can helo. Even so, a degree of pragmatism both in terms of where a loan may be necessary.

The provision of domestic mortgages in the UK is dominated by two types of lender: banks and building societies. The key difference between these from an ethical investor's point of view is that banks borrow and lend on the international money markets and

building societies do not. Because of their mutual status, building societies must restrict their core business to taking deposits from and lending to individual members of the public. This means that they are almost wholly free of involvement in areas of business that the ethically minded regard as unacceptable.

By contrast, all of the "Big Four" clearing banks - Barclays, Lloyds-TSB, Midland and NatWest - have been involved in areas such as the provision of Third World debt, or of trade credits to governments buying weapons from the UK.

International banking activity is swathed in secrecy. "Confidentiality" is crucial to the success or failure of at least some of the business they carry far greater transparency in out but also a convenient an- their conduct of business and

lines in their conduct of business but neither offer mortgages. Of the larger clearing banks, Abbey National says it does not lend direct to companies; about 40 per cent of the £151bn assets controlled by the bank are in UK mortgages. The Abbey also has a strong environmental policy. Building societies practise

ados Bank, follow ethical guide-

All the big banks have been involved in provision of Third World debt

swer to critics. As a result, choosing a bank on the basis of areas it avoids is practically impossible. The same applies to a small but growing number of those of bank mortgages.
"direct lender" mortgage While the world of mod providers, who are independent of large banks. These borrow on the international money markets, then re-badge and lend the same money to indi-

Two banks, the Co-Operative Bank and the much smaller Tri-

provide the best option for ethical borrowers. And their average lending rates have been up to 0.5 per cent less than

While the world of modern banking has a slick, uniform feel to it, that of many smaller building societies is still strongly individualistic. There are ethically oriented mutuals such as the Ecology Building Society, which specialises in lending

on the purchase and restoration

Building Society offers a "green mortgage" on homes which are built to specified minimum standards of energy conservation. The Catholic Building Society also deserves mention; it has a stated aim of helping

those - particularly single

mothers - who cannot other-

wise obtain a mortgage.

chains of estate agents.

of old derelict buildings. The

Norwich and Peterborough

Some societies, notably Bradford & Bingley, are now so buying non-mutual businesses which are wholly owned by their mutual "cores". B&B has invested into areas linked to mortgage lending such as

How you pay off a loan can also also create dilemmas for the ethically minded. Rob Harrison, editor of Ethical Consumer magazine, argues: "The morally cleanest solution is to take a repayment mortgage where you repay both interest and capital with a mutual lender." Taking this route, you will then only have to purchase life insurance to cover the amount owed on the mortgage. "Buy from a mutual," observes Mr Harrison, "and you will

know where your money is going to end up."

If you opt for an interest-only loan, you will need to start a savings plan to pay it off at some future date. Ethical fund providers now offer a comprehensive product range which can be used for this purpose. For instance, Friends Provident offers three versions of their Stewardship fund; one is a PEPable unit trust, one a unitlinked endowment and one a

available in these packages. Friends Provident is confident that the Stewardship fund can be used to back a mortgage; over 10 years, it has grown faster than their "with profits" fund.

The Independent' is offering a free 36-page Guide to Flexible Mortgages, with tips on home loans, including how much you can borrow, how to repay, and useful telephone numbers. Global Care fund is also First Active, call 0800 550551 duce tribunal costs, and ensure compromise.

You can only pick one.

It's not a difficult choice is it?

Liberty for leaseholders

Unhappy with your freeholder? You don't have to be. By Karen Woolfson

PETER MANDELSON is not the only person who has experienced problems over a property in Notting Hill's now-famous Talbot Road.

One of his neighbours. Jonathan Ash, an investment banker who owns three flats in a Victorian building in this prestigious street, has been fighting a battle on a different front. Mr Ash and another leaseholder in the block are celebrating a victory over their freehold landlord.

They have just represented themselves in a case fought through the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal demonstrating that it is possible to save a lot of money if you are prepared to put time and effort into the

The freeholder is now limited to the right of receiving ground rent

process. Mr Ash and his co-applicant won an application to appoint a manager of their choice, removing all powers formerly vested with the freeholder, who is now limited to the right of receiving ground rent on their property.

They both bought properties in the block in the summer of 1997 and were told at the time of purchase that there were no plans for major redecoration or building work. However, soon after buying their flats, they were sent details of works to be carried out, which could cost a total of £6,450. Mr Ash was furious: "I don't

diately and the contractors ground a quarter of an inch off the brickwork on the façade of our house. [It was] destructive and needless."

Mr Ash wants the Govern-

that leaseholders are not exposed to legal costs.

Bruce Maunder Taylor, a property manager, also wants to see a legal requirement for a landlord, managing agent or management company to sign a standard detailed written contract of management practice. A copy should be given to every leaseholder buying a property. This legally binding contract should include. a conflict of interest

statement compliance with all codes of conduct. includang tightened-up version of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors' code

in full details of banking, accounting and cheque signing authority and certification of the service charge accounts details of current expenditure and copies of the last three years' service charge accounts, prepared in accordance with company law. and separate accounts prepared in accordance with new. stricter landlord and tenant legislation

a statement showing annual contracts in place, their duration and when they were last competitively priced a statement of all bank accounts where any service charge monies are held or

have been held, and a statement that the auditors have seen all invoices, receipts, bank state-

ments and ledger sheets Many leaseholders want the Government to set up a regulator for managing agents, landlords and managers, similar to the Financial Services Authority. They say that the key is for Parliament to take a clear classify this amount as minor. stand, giving home-owners a The work began almost imme-watchdog with teeth. Those against the regulator usually represent the freeholder's or manager's point of view and fear that such a watchdog would force them into line, but anything short of that could

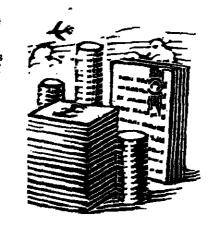
Businessman: born free but chained to his laptop

THE TRADING system in New York needs a quick once-over to make sure it really is the same as the one in London. Why this is necessary, I'm not sure. It strikes me that software is software wherever it's installed, but if it means a freebie to the States, who am I to complain?

Which brings me to where I am now, sitting in business class - only it's not called that, it's called something like Executive Chub or President Suite - sipping champagne and looking around me. This makes me, as far as I can see, unique in this part of the cabin. All about me, there are men and women tapping away frantically at their notebook computers and personal organisers, and they've been doing it almost from the moment they got on the plane.

You can spot the regular fliers from the little rituals they perform when they board: take off coat, jacket and shoes (both sexes); loosen tie and roll up shirt sleeves (men); spray face with mineral water mist and put on serious-looking but expensive glasses with dark frames (women); order freshly squeezed orange juice (men and women); unpack vast array of electronic gadgetry and fidget until plane has taken off and can switch it all on (men and women).

Not that I could join in even if I wanted to. Unsurprisingly, the concept of mobile trading hasn't caught on yet, so my personal . organiser contains nothing more exciting than names, addresses and a few games. I don't even keep my diary in it, not since the time I stood up



THE TRADER

friends three evenings in a row because I'd written them into 1996 by mistake. Consequently, I am about the only person in business class making eye contact with the cabin crew, and

they spoil me rotten as a result. So while I'm nibbling on dinky little snacks left over from first class, my fellow passengers are beavering , away. Luckily, though they may be making full use of the hand-writing recognition - an interesting challenge, I think, if we hit turbulence - at least no one is using voice

Not that you could in a public space like this: too many secrets would come out, like how much company time these City types waste writing

letters in which they threaten to sue their builders and so on. The next labour-saving device has to be a headset that can take down your thoughts and e-mail them immediately. How ghastly, I think. Then I realise that a society organised like that wouldn't last long

The only obstacle to my happy champagne-and-smoked-salmon fuelled musing is the man next to me. He's old - at least 40 - and fat and sweaty. This doesn't really surprise me, though. I've never sat next to anyone on a plane who wasn't ugly. Once, on the Eurostar to Paris, I sat next to a male model - but he was a Libran and wouldn't stop talking, so it wasn't that good.

Anyway, this flight's Mr Ugly is an entrepreneur from somewhere up north, Cheshire perhaps, who's wearing a three piece mustard yellow checked suit that makes him look like an oversized Rupert Bear.

Not that he's horrid or anything, just a bit chatty. He tells me about what he does, and I half listen. He nudges me to make sure I'm

listening. "I'll speak plainly," he says, then laughs and adds: "No pun intended." None taken, I think. "This lot" - he carries on - "are like rats on a treadmill. It's no way to live."

I look harder at the faces around me and suddenly realise where I've seen them before: in an engraving of a Victorian workhouse my history teacher showed me once. So much for progress, I think, and take another sip

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They are easy to set up and can save a fortune in death duties. By Andy Couchman

Put your faith in a trust

pending just a few minutes arranging a simple trust could save the average life assurance customer thousands of pounds and significant amounts of time, at no cost to him- or herself, a Rotherhambased financial adviser claims.

Julian Crooks, of Murray Borrill and Partners, believes that everyone who has a life assurance policy should look at having a trust. He cites the case of a widow he was asked to advise who had a policy worth more than £300,000 that was not written in trust. Had she died, her children would have had to pay more than £100,000 in additional death duties and could have had to wait months before getting their hands on the money. Yet both problems could have been avoided had she been advised to use a trust, something that most life assurers are happy to provide free of charge.

A trust works by placing property - in this case the proceeds of a life assurance policy - into the hands of trustees, whose job it is to ensure that the money is paid out in line with the wishes of the person who sets up the arrangement.

A trust can be set up simply and quickly. The person setting it up (called a settlor) appoints two people to act as trustees on his or her behalf. They should be people you can trust to do what you ask them to, but do choose carefully: you cannot usually sack a trustee - although they are free to resign.

Although a trust can be set up to give no discretion as to who should get the money, most modern trusts allow for a degree of flexibility. That can be important if beneficiaries die. or if you no longer want them to benefit - ex-partners or ex-spouses, for example.

Trusts can trace their beginnings back to the Middle Ages. Then, if a tenant farmer died leaving a son who was not yet 21, the lord of the manor was entitled to use the land until the boy reached the age of majority. But if the land was conveyed to a trusted friend who would pass it back to the

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effectively stayed within the family. Today's trusts cover a much wider range of property and, at least so far as life assurance is concerned, could not be simpler to arrange. One company that has led the move towards plain English trusts is Scottish Provident. It has produced "A Guide to Trusts".

Ian Smart, marketing technical support manager at Scottish Provident, explains why the guide has been produced: "We know customers are taking the time and trouble to protect their families against their dying or becoming seriously ill. However, they are not finishing the job because they believe trusts are complicated."

The two big benefits of trusts are the speed of pay-out and the reductions in inheritance tax (IHT). Before an insurance company can pay out under a life assurance policy, must make sure that it pays out to the right person. That means waiting for probate, a process that

THE POLICIES

What Insurance policies can you place in trust? term assurance whole-of-life insurance savings and investment

the life assurance part of a pension plan insurance-linked lump sum

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plans (endowment plans)*

nvestments* critical illness policies* Always take advice, as you may not be able to get the benefits back yourself if the policy is under trust.

What insurance policies can

you not place in trust? mortgage endowment policies held by your lender any other policy held as income protection policies any general insurance policy

If someone dies without a will, the process can take even longer and the estate proceeds must then be paid out in line with the laws on intestacy. A spouse with young children would get just £125,000 plus interest on half the remainder of the estate. regardless of what they and their de-ceased partner might have wanted. If they were not married, the part-

ner could get even less. A trust avoids all such problems, as the insurer can simply pay a cheque to the trustees on presentation of a death certificate. To meet the range of circumstances that people may have, Mr Smart says that his company has five main trusts covering most business, fam-

ily and investment needs. IHT is charged at 40 per cent on all but the first £223,000 of an estate on death. That figure includes the value of any home and life assurance not under trust, but excludes any sums paid to a spouse. With many people having life assurance cover of £100,000 or more, IHT is no longer a tax just for the rich. If your estate would be subject to the tax, each £1 of life assurance cover is really worth just 60p.

The mathematics mean that to get £1 after tax, you would need to start with £1.67. In other words, not having a trust could mean having to pay 67 per cent more for your life assurance than you need to. The insurance industry does not

know how many of its policies are

written under trust but most estimates put the figure at less than half. Yet it is not too late. Mr Crooks says that even existing policies can be placed in trust and that, provided your needs are straightforward and you have two trusted friends or relations willing and able to manage the trust for you, then the time and

financial savings available could

make a trust one of the best in-

For a free copy of Scottish Provident's 'A Guide to Trusts', call 0131 260 5253; Murray Borrill and Partners, 01709 371675. Andy Couchman is publishing editor of HealthCare,

vestments you ever make.



Catch a PEP before they go

Before PEPs disappear, take advantage of some useful tax breaks. By Tony Lyons

PERSONAL EQUITY plans (PEPs) have proved themselves one of the most popular means of tax-efficient savings. Since their introduction almost 12 years ago, around 4 million investors have accumulated almost £50bn, free of all capital gains and income tax, through PEPs.

But now time is running out. From 6 April, no new money will be allowed into PEPs, which are being replaced with individual savings accounts (ISAs). So you can expect to see tempting PEP offers over the coming weeks. Groups such as M&G have already entered the fray, offering up to £200 to new investors. Others will include 2 or 3 per cent reductions in their initial charges.

The message from the PEP man-agers will be "use it or lose it". But much will depend on your tax status and investment aims; as well as the Chancellor replacing PEPs with ISAs, he has also changed the rules on advanced corporation tax (ACT). Until 5 April, PEP managers will

still be able to reclaim this tax paid on dividends by the companies in their portfolios - which makes them free of income tax. For the following five years, only half the ACT can be reclaimed, and from 2004 it will have to be paid in full.

This has serious implications for anyone using a PEP to maximise the income from savings. The effect will be substantially to reduce income. For example, if your dividends the managers of your PEP scheme will increase this to £125 by reclaiming the full ACT From 6 April, assuming no growth in dividends, they will be able to reclaim only £11. After 2004 you will receive just £100.

Therefore, taxpayers should seriously consider using corporate bond PEPs to generate a high income if this is the investment objective. Income from loan stocks corporate bonds, or gilts – unlike dividends, will still be free of tax.

In fact, PEPs in general are best for higher-rate taxpayers, even if they remain in income funds. This is because even with the changes in ACT, they will still generate more income than direct investments, as the rate of ACT is lower than the 40 per cent higher tax rate.

term growth, the shelter from capital gains tax is a worthwhile benefit, though few investors make more than the threshold £6,800 a year in profits from their investments.

Non-taxpayers can, however, look to invest direct rather than through a PER unless they expect to make substantial capital gains. They will still be able to reclaim any tax paid on dividends, unlike PEP holders.

If you are a standard-rate taxpayer, you can invest direct in corporate bond unit trusts. Some groups, including CGU, Fidelity and M&G now offer them outside their PEP wrappers. You could then use a PEP to shelter your investment in funds where long-term capital growth is the aim - or use a growth PEP to produce an income by cashing in some of your gains each year. Jason Holland, of Best Investment, points out: "Most unit trusts

Taxpayers should seriously consider using corporate bond PEPs to generate a high income

can be bought more cheaply through a PEP than by investing direct. And currently amount to £100 after ACT, as the investment should grow, it will be free from CGT. Also, you don't have to declare your PEP holdings on your income tax returns."

It may be a surprise that most general PEPs have lower charges than a direct fund investment. "PEP investors don't move in and out of their holdings as often as those who invest direct," says Ann Davis, director of Fidelity, "so this makes it cheaper for us, and we pass this on in lower PEP charges.

Under the existing rules, up to £6,000 can be invested in a general or self-select PEP and £3,000 in a single company PEP.

The Independent's 'Guide to PEPs', by Nic Cicutti, personal finance editor, is sponsored by Scottish Widows Fund Management. Call 0345

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Ukraine instead, where I worked for a year

before moving to the London office. Hele-

Two weeks later I went to India for a hol-

a job but before I left, Helena rushed over

and gave me a Christmas present and a

hug which, considering the fact that she

hardly knew me, was generous, kind and

job had it not been for the fact that I had

been so impressed by Helena's book Eve

Was Framed, about the injustices that exist

for women in the criminal justice system

I was interested to see how Helena

would put her principles into practice. I'm

not the kind of person who is usually lost

We are not promoting

cultural imperialism.

running around the world

banging a British drum

for words but when we met for the first time

and she asked me to tell her something

about myself, I couldn't think of anything

to say at all. After my attack of speech-

lessness I was surprised that she offered

amusing stories, and a very good team play-

er. She doesn't stand on ceremony and is

very relaxed, open and friendly. People are

sometimes a bit open-mouthed because

they expect her to be more formal. She's

extremely quick and very much knows her

I think the British Council appealed to

her because it's an organisation that works

on issues which are important to her, in-

cluding human rights, women's issues, ed-

ucation and the arts. I think she also

own mind, although she's not afraid to ask

Helena is enormous fun, always telling

me the icb.

for others' opinions.

I probably wouldn't have applied for the

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'I applied for the job after reading Helena's book'

we are initiating these projects abroad. Working for Helena is inspiring, particularly as hers is a voice that others listen to. During her speech in a recent debate about the British Council in the House of Lords, she said that she would be a warrior in Whitehall fighting on the Council's behalf. In a way, her tone of phrase charvalues the innovative methods we use when acterised her – you can just imagine her to overcoming cultural differences.

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as an Amazonian woman. She describes the work of the Council as establishing conversations with mankind, which is exactly why I enjoy working here myself. I believe that helping one culture communicate with others, whether through art, language, dance or working on a project with a non-governmental organisation, is the key

The essential purpose of the British Council is to enhance the reputation of Britain around the world; therefore, some of our projects are connected with the Cool Britannia concept and up-to-the-minute fashions. But it would be wrong to suggest that we are promoting cultural imperialism, running around the world banging a British drum. Fuddy duddy just isn't the way to describe an organisation whose projects vary from working for the welfare of women forced into prostitution in Ukraine to involving Cherie Blair and local lawyers in a mock trial in China to demonstrate the rights of the accused.

Helena has another office which is run by Hilary, who takes care of all Helena's work outside of the Council but, at the moment, Hilary is away for a month so I've taken over her role during her absence. It's been a real eye-opener, because I'm actually getting to understand all the other things that Helena does when she's not working here. Seeing all the correspondence she gets made me realise how all her high-profile roles - including her positions as a QC, a peer, a writer and presenter, as well as her work at the Council - gives her an obligation to answer the wide variety of letters she receives, which ask for her support or advice.

I want to ask her how she manages the mental switch between appearing in court in the morning and working at the British Council in the afternoon. Maybe it's part of her brilliance that she finds changing gear so easy. She doesn't seem to get stressed, but then I don't get very stressed either. The only thing that stresses me is stressed people.

Apart from being interested in working for Helena, our first woman Chair, I like the idea of being at the heart of everything at the Council. I work quite closely with the secretarial team in general, so I might get asked to do research on how the Nolan Report on Standards in Public Life affects the work of the Council, or on issues of corporate governance, all of which gives my job a wider scope. I'm also able to do an MA in Eastern European Studies because the Council is quite agreeable to their staff taking time out to study part-time - education being such an important aspect of the work we do.

I would like to work abroad again, but meantime I'm due to go to India with Helena as her private secretary and as an extra pair of ears. I can't wait.

INTERVIEW BY KATTE SAMPSON

A warrior in Whitehall She's no sister...

A SIMPLE rule of office politics: don't have conversations in the loo that you don't want overheard. Chances are, the person behind the closed cubicle door will be the one you're talking about. Either that, or they'll be a nosy temp.

Outside my cubicle, where I'm taking a screen break, two women are talking, and what they are saying is not nice. "Have you heard?" says a deep voice, "Kat's gone. Resigned this morning," "Jesus," replies a squeaky one, "She'll have every one of us out before spring." "Shaft the competition. Make room for the boys." "Yes. And make room for herself with the boys."

The click of a lipstick top. "What do you mean?" deep voice asks, only it comes out "Ok oo ea?" as she's obviously doing her mouth. "You must have noticed," says squeaky. "She's been picking off the attractive ones. Everyone who might take attention away from her. Think about it. First it was Jean, then it was Susannah, then Kirstie, then Poppy." "Uh huh?" "The blondes. There's not a blonde left.

Then it was Carrie, Sharon, Daisy, Monica..." "I remember. All really good, then suddenly their promotions get blocked, they can't get through her door, and men half their ages get put into the jobs they should have had." "Exactly. And they all had bodies to die for." "Ooh, yes. You're right." "Well, now she's picking off the good dressers. That and, of course, anyone who might make her look less than perfect."

I can't believe what I'm hearing. Rachel Brougham? The famous Rachel Brougham, who I've been so excited about working for? Rachel Brougham, feminist, author, editrix, parliamentary lobbyist, authority on women's rights, TV pundit? The woman we've all grown up striving to emulate, who fought her way up through a man's world without sacrificing femininity, family or fun?

"Teli you what," says deep voice, and what she says send shivers down my spine, "Rachel Brougham's no sister." "Yeah, well," says squeaky voice, "She's far too busy with the brothers to spare a thought for us."

Damn. And here was I thinking I might at last have fallen on my feet, got to a place where, even if I didn't get a break, I might get some sound advice. Rachel Brougham is always

Business Services Association

Self-motivated Personal Assistant required for

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working knowledge of Office 97 including Access

database, plus sound audio skills required. Some

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Val Hiscock, Corporate Affairs Manager,

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6263, e-mail: busserasso@aol.com) to arrive

Business Services Association,

no later than Friday 19th February.

other benefits

salary to:

the Director-General of a busy, high profile



THE TEMP

on the telly spouting about caring employment policies, child care, job shares, open-door policies, employee consultation, flexible working. Surely this can't be true?

"So why did Kat go, then?" asks deep voice. "Couldn't handle the hours," squeaks squeaky "Ever since she had the baby, Rachel's been on her back. She's not got out of the office before 7pm since she came back from maternity leave. And she never got to work from home even though everyone else does. Every time there was a job that involved going away overnight. she got sent. This is a business, not a charitable institution, apparently: "You mean she talked to her?" "Well. eventually. On the 30th attempt."

"So much for the open door policy," says deep voice, "You know what her secretary told me? Well, apparently whenever someone she doesn't want to talk to arrives, she grabs the phone and protends to be engrossed in conversation."

I can't stay in the cubicle any longer; Rachel will have noted my absence. I flush the loo and, by the time I emerge, the room is empty: they obviously scurried out when they realised they were not alone.

Walking back across the floor, I notice that there are, indeed, more men here than women, and the women all seem to have moleskin hair, taupe skin and checked flannel shirts. On a chair outside Rachel's room, a woman waits. Have you come to see Rachel?" I ask. "Yes." she says, "But I don't want to disturb her while she's talking." "Sure." I go back to my screen, secretly observing the great feminist from the corner of my eye.

Rachel puts her finger over the clicker, peers out at the chairs and. when she sees that the woman is still there, lifts it back off and turns her back, receiver firmly to her ear.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS: SECRETARIAL, OFFICE SUPPORT

FAX: 0171 293 2505

THE BRIDGE

Secretary/Office Administrator Are you fed up with the daily train journey into Central London and

would like to work closer to home? If you are a young, talented secretary with at least a year's permanent experience, ready to take on a demanding role ranging from straightforward secretarial duties to client liaison and organising training courses — this could be the job for you! We are a management training and business development company based in Sutton, Surrey and

are looking for a bright, enthusiastic person. You must have a strong, outgoing character and will need a flexible attitude in your daily work. Training in specific computer packages will be provided, but a working knowledge of Word, Powerpoint and good standard of education are essential. Salary will be commensurate with age and experience.

In the first instance, please send your CV to: Deborah West, Director, The Bridge, Westmead House, 123 Westmead Road, Staton, Surrey SM1 4JH

Legal Eagles"

A highly professional receptionist is required by a prestigious Barristers' Chambers. Working in luxurious surroundings, in a beautiful listed building, this role will suit a friendly team player, who is capable of working on their own initiative. The position involves answering a sometimes hectic switchboard, meeting and greeting clients, general administration and occasional typing. Keyboard and switchboard experience an

advantage. Salary according to age and experience Please telephone Louise Smith on 01604 602333 Closing date: Friday 19th February 1999 (no agencies or media calls please)

The Department for International Development is the government department responsible for managing Britain's programme of development assistance to poorer countries. To help in reaching our objective of eliminating poverty, we need Band C1 Personal Secretaries at our London Headquarters in Victoria, These will be permanent appointments.

Personal Secretary duties include diary management, typing (copy, audio or shorthand), distribution, filing, faxing and photocopying of documents, arranging meetings and travel. You will need to have communication skills, both oral and written; good organisational skills; be well motivated with a flexible attitude and be able to prioritise. The ability to use Microsoft Word and Excel would be an advantage although training can be arranged. A typing speed of 50wpm is required (technical) skills will be tested).

For further details and an application pack please contact our recruitment line on 0171 917 0079 (24 hour answerphone), or fax 0171 917 0686 or e-mail dfid-recruitment@dfid.gtnet.gov.uk). Closing date for receipt of completed applications Friday 26 February 1999.

applications for these posts are sought from both men and women.

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and their dependants. INFORMATION ASSISTANT

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

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if so, please send your C.V. with hand-written covering letter to Human Resources Officer (RSCT), The Royal British Legion, 48 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JY by 19th February 1999.

Please note as a charity we do not admowledge applications. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within 2 weeks after closing date.

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Required for busy Estate Agents office based in Chelsea. Good secretarial skills essential together with professional telephone manner and ability to deal with the general public. Salary by negotiation. Replies with CV by post or fax to: Angela Stanley
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Tel: 0171 352 9556 Fax: 0171 376 8353

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London SW1Y 4AE

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London Bridge

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c £30,000 + Attractive Benefits Package A well known high profile, international client is seeking a commercially focused Financial Controller with exceller communication skills. With at least one year's experience in a similar role, you will be working in a dynamic, fast paced environment, so a cool head and excellent organisation skills are paramount. Prospects for development of the position include projected expansion of the finance function in 1999, in which you will play a crucial role. Ref 233134

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> Telephone 0171 234 0393 or write to 3 Southwark Street, London SEI IRQ. Fax 0171 403 3937

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£28,000 + Bens

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> Telephone 0171 379 5333 or write to Centric House, 390-391 The Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Fax 0171 836 0655

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CAPITAL MARKETS

The London headquarters of a major European investment house is looking to hire a professional dedicated to the Credit Repo product within the capital markets group. Candidates are currently being sought for a London based position.

The responsibilities of this position include developing the Bank's Credit Repo trading policy, establishing appropriate trade support and systems to enable Credit Repo trades to be carried out, and running a profitable Credit Repo matched book covering Emerging Markets, High Yield and High Grade bonds.

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- Minimum of 5 years' experience trading the Credit Repo product in both New York and London at top tier investment banks.
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Bristol

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You'll need a current driving ficence as this role involves a significant amount of travel around England and Wales. Starting salary will be dependent upon qualifications and experience.

If you have a genuine interest in preserving our natural environment then please call Miles Jordan on 0117 914 2890 for an informal discussion. Alternatively, please send your CV and a covering letter to Liz Rex, Environment Agency, Government Buildings, Burghill Road, Westbury-on-Trym. Bristol BS10 6BF. Closing date for receipt of applications is 26 February 1999.



INTERNATIONAL BANK

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Responsibilities will include analysing and carrying out statistical and quantitative research with specific reference to business markets in India, generating stment recommendations and report preparation. The successful applicant will have an MBA and possess extensive business experience within the region. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the skills and experience required for this role, please send your cv to:

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relevant experience including a knowledge of the Turkish finance markets. The salary offered is commensurate with experience. If you possess the

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Media, Marketing,

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Interested candidates should write enclosing their CV and details of their current package to Rebecca Anderson at Michael Page Finance, Europa House, Church Street, Old Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 7DA. Ref OASD. e-mail: rebeccaanderson@michaelpage.com

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- For an informal discussion about the role, please consact Richard Harrie, Princips Accountant on (01904) 551101 or David Laws, Accountancy Manager (01904) 551102.
- deally applicants for the above two posts will:
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- The closing date for applications is Friday, 19 February 1999. Interviews are expected to be held during the first two weeks of March 1999. If you have not heard from us by Friday, 26 Harch 1999, please assume that on this occasion you have from the property of the control of
- APPLICATION PACKS FOR ALL POSTS are available from Catherine Edw Soulor Administrator, City Finance Centre, PO Box 31, Library Square, York, YO 170L. Tel: (01994) SS11SS, Pac: (81904) SS1190 or e-mail cuth-edward@york.gov.ak

if you possess the skills required for this position, please send your CV to

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BANKING ANALYST

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Please reph in swings, exclavage your current CV and salary alchaels to:

Nts Lindacy Roberts, Chief Excentive, Reference Publishing Division

LP 18.4, 69-77 Pani Street, London EZCA 40.0

Closing date for applications—1x March, 1999

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Fax: 0171 330 0961 emailshaun@napier-scott.co.uk Napier Scott Search Napier Scott Search

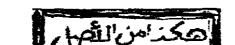
INTERNATIONAL BANK

Requires FINANCIAL ANALYST. Responsibilities will include analysing and carrying out statistical and quantitative research with specific reference to business markets in Israel; generating investment recommendations and report preparation. The successful candidate will have an MBA and possess extensive business experience within the region. The salary offered is

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Labour湊



NEW FILMS

A BUG'S LIFE (U) Director: John Lasseter Starring: David Foley, Kevin Spacey See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15) Director: Gillies Mackinnon

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Service on a service of the service

Starring: Kate Winslet, Said Taghmaour Through the teeming orange/red/turquoise backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters (Bella Riza, Carrie Mullan) unwillingly in tow. Meantime, gormless backpackers, Sufi teachers, thieving natives and Said Taghmaoui's child-ofthe-soil love-interest weave hither and thither across the narrative. Regeneration director Mackingon makes a fair fist of translating Esther Freud's novel to the screen; stirring in lots of ethnic chic and a canny period soundtrack. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch, and the child stars are startlingly good. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curson Soho, Curzon Minema, Odean Swiss Cottage, Renoit, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Kilburn Tricycle Cinema, UCI Surrey Quays. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15) Director: Kevin Sullivan

Starring: Angela Bassett, Whoopi Goldberg Stella got her groove back like this. She took off to Jamaica with her feisty buddie (Whoopi Goldberg), sashayed around the beach in a clinging bikini, and got herself a little love action in the form of a man (Taye Diggs) young enough to be her son. So it goes: Shirley Volentine with an

Afro-American spin. Terry MacMillan's bestseller has been conjured into a kind of ongoing travelagent commercial - a coldly marketed "chickflick" enjoying a run at cinemas before cropping up as your in-flight entertainment. Title star Angela Bassett works hard to make an impression among the slide-show of tourist-brochure visuals.

West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cineworld the Movies, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odean, Peckham Premier, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, New Stratford Picture House, UCI Surrey Quoys

LIVING OUT LOUD (15) Director: Richard LaGravenese Starring: Holly Hunter, Darrny DeVito See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. Local: Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12,

PECKER (18) Director: John Waters Starring: Edward Furlong, Christina Ricci,

Peckham Premier, Streatham ABC

Trash auteur Waters swerves into sunnier streets with Pecker, his fluffily satirical tale of an amateur Baltimore photographer (Edward Furlong) adopted as a fly-on-the-wall artiste by the New York elite. More Hairspray than Pink Flamingos, Pecker goes big on blue-collar kitsch without ever making any real, stringent point, and squanders Christina Ricci (as Furlong's hard-nosed girlfriend) into the bargain. The result is entirely genial, but you miss the old risk, edge and bad-taste artistry. Age, it seems, has mellowed John Waters. West End: Clapham Picture House, Metro, Odeon

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for Romeo and Julies. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

Living Out Loud (15)

Holly Hunter plays a Manhattan woman who, left by her husband, befriends the elevator operator in her building. Writer Richard LaGravenese handles everything with affectionate restraint.

A Bug's Life (U)

Less sophisticated and more child-friendly than Ant. this animated feature spins another good yarn about an ant colony and its battle to survive. Kevin Spacey provides the voice of the chief grasshopper.

The Opposite of Sex (18) Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, who causes havor when she moves in with her half-brother (Martin Donovan).

π (15) Darren Aronofsky's debut (right), filmed in sooty blackand-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indic movie fearlessly combines Wall Street, Jewish mysticism and nightmarish beadaches.

CINEMA

3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm My Name is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm x (Pi) 1.25pm, 3.30pm 6.10pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET

ABC PICCADILLY

3.30pm, 6.00pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT

(0870-902 0414) & Tottenham

(0171-351 3742) Sloane Square Hilary and Jackle 1,10pm,

(0171-498 3323) & Clapham Junction Bulworth 9pm Hideous Kinky 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Hillary and Jackie 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm Pecker 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm

3,40pm, 6,10pm, 8.40pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

BARBICAN SCREEN

CHELSEA CINEMA

CURZON MAYFAIR

Comer/Knightsbridge His Klarky 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0171-727 4043) Notting Hill Gate Hillary and Jackie 4.20pm, 8.50pm Little Voice 2.20pm,

Circus Dobermann 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 6.45pm Pecker 3pm,

NOTTING HILL CORONET

ODEÓN CAMDEN TOWN

(08705-050007) & Carnden Town

2.45pm, 4.45pm Fester 12.50pm, 9.10pm Shakespeare in Love 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm Stepmon 12.20pm, 6.30pm Very Bad Things 3.45pm,

GATE NOTTING HILL

5pm, 7pm, 9pm

CURZON SOHO

ROAD

8.40pm



ANTEONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's Theatre)

Triumphant revival of Theatre de Complicite's stirreal and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz. To 20 Feb

Okiahoma! (Lyceum Theatre) Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jun

The Forest (Lyttelton, National Theatre) Frances de la Tour is deliciously amusing as the cradle-snatching widow in Ostrovsky's cornedy about tyrants and thespians (right).

The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford) An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanovstyle production. In rep to 4 Mar

Martin Guerre (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds) It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving

production, it finally emerges as a tighter, more

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture cor-Women: exquisite melanges of flesh and fabric. dreams of sex and money, images of triumphant bourgeois luxury. To 25.4pr

Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery) The modern object-world made luminous. This survey of nearly 50 years' work offers his full range. - notably, those bold become outlines, blocked in with translucent colour. To 11 Acr

Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery) Photographs 1994-98: wide-vision, high-timsh, micro-detailed vistas of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, airport, alpine valley - images filled with more than the eye can see. To "Mar-

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery) "I saw this" - three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Gova and Otto Dix.

Visions from the blackest of times, To 20 Mar

Peter Doig & Udomsak Krisanamis (Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh) Doig's sizzling landscapes (riela) alternate with Krisanamis' collages of

cultural detritus, To 27 Mar



TOM LUBBOUK

GENERAL RELEASE

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep-pig" into the midst of the city where he assorted waifs. West End: Plaza. Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Berleyheath Cineworld, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Warner Village North Finchley, Harrow Warner Village, Holloway Odeon, Peckham Premier, Richmond Odeon Studio, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon

BULWORTH (18)

Disillusioned at the end of an election campaign. senator Jay Bulworth (Warren Beatty) turns Croydon Clocktower, Croydon Safari, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12. Warner Village Finchley Road, Peckham Premier, Wimbledon Odeon Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty.

West End: ABC Panton Street, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Minema, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, probes a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Morble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

FEAR AND LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18) Terry Gilliam's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, but the one stand-out is Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson to bald-headed pigeon-toed life. West End: Gate Notting Hill Repertory: Prince Charles, The Lux Cinema

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains, Anand Tucker's biopic of the Du Pré sisters, Hilary (shy, married flautist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, This sugar-glazed, oven-ready affair casts an Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on the Hill Local: Greenwich Cinema, Richmond Odeon Studio

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV (Jane Horrocks) perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push it through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (18) Road, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odean Kensington, Odean Swiss Cottage, Odean West End, Ritzy Cinemo, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG) of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. West End. Odeon Mezonia. This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed Village West End. And local cinemas

Martin Brest's underdeveloped rehaul of Death Takes a Holiday stars Brad Pitt as the aquiline Grim Reaper, who get chaperoned around the Hopkins' dying billionaire. West End: Empire
Leicester Square. Local: Berleiharth \$1⁴7

West End: Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. Local: Feltham Cineworld the Movies, Warner Village Finchley Road, Richmond Odeon Studio, UCI Surrey Quays

West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho. Local: Richmond Odeon Studio

mumbo-jumbo, Practical Magic sees Sandra suicidal loose cannon; hanging out in the 'hood Bullock and Nícole Kidman cast as two and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap mismatched sisters raised from a line of witches stylings. West End: Clopham Picture House, and hexing any unlucky man who swings into their Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, orbit. With Dianne Wiest and Aidan Quinn. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Warner Village West End. Local: Catford ABC, Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

> honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result ends up looking more like The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

Odeon, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon. Repertory: National Film Theatre

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road. Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street. Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

STEPMOM (12)

Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

James Toback's taught drama probes aggressively Local: Warner Village Finchley Road

A bunch of stag-weekenders accidentally kill a Las
Vegas whore, intentionally murder the security
guard who rumbles the crime, and then start
coming apart at the seams on their arrival home.
Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggering
gross-out comedy in a Loaded-magazine style.

Diaz and Christian Slater.

Plaza, UCI

(08705-U5UUG),
Kensington A Bug's Life 11.455...
2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 6.5
9.45pm Bulworth 1.15pm, 4pm, 12
3.40pm, 6.30pm Little 1.40pm, 9.35pm Practical Magic 1pm, 4
9.35pm Practical Magic 1pm, 4
9.20pm Shakespeare in Love
12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.25pm Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm) & Piccadilly Circus Hamam: The Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm There's Something About Mary 1.05pm,

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE ABC SHAFTEBBORY AVERUE (0870-902 0402) ← Leicester Square Class Tirlp 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

Square Bulfalo 66 1.15pm, 3.50pm. 6.15pm, 8.40pm Un Homme et une Fenne 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm On Connalt la Chanson 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm La Vie Revée des Anges 1.25pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Love 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Stepmom 12.10pm, 2.45pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm

> ODEON WEST END (08705-050007) & Leicester Square Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.55pm, Stepmom 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm

PEPSI LMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) & Piccadilly Circus Everest 9.05pm L5 (IMAX) 2.40pm, 4.45pm, 7pm T-Resc Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm, 10.05pm (0171-638 8891) & Barbican Hilary and Jackle 6pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 6pm,

4,30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET (0171-935 2772) & Baker Street Hideous Kinky 2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6.25pm, 9pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) & Angel Shakespeare in Love 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

Hilary and 5 6.40pm, 9.10pm

(0870 60 34567) ⊕ Bayswater A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 2.10pm, 4pm. (0171-734 1506) D Piccadilly (0171-727 6705) & Norting Hill Gate Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm 7pm. 9.20pm The Parent Trap 2.25pm Shakespeare in Love A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.05pm Little Voice 11.50am, 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.45pm Pecker 12.50pm,

(0870-907 0710) ← Sloane Square A Bug's Life 12.30pm, 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Bulworth 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9.15pm Stepmom 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

(0870-907 0711) 0 Kensington Hideous 12.10pm. 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 12.40pm, 3pm. 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm The Opposite of Sex 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Practical Magic 1.40pm,

VIRGIN HAVMARKET (0870-907 0712) © Piccadilly Circus Bulworth 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm Pecker 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Two

magnificent show. To 13 Feb

VIRGIN TROCADERO

9.10pm WARNER VILLAGE WEST END

The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm The Opposite of Sex 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm A Perfect Murder 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm Practical Magic 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm (+Short: Eight) Rush Hour 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 9.20pm Very Bad Things 11.50am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm What Dreams May Come 9.30pm What Dreams May Come

CINEMA

9.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 5.05pm Practical Magic 2.10pm, 5.50pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The Siege 7.40pm, 10.10pm Stepmom 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.30pm, 10pm

1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 3.30pm, 9pm ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Becken ham Junction A Bug's Life 2.10pm. 4.20pm 6.30pm, 8.40pm Little Valce 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm,

8.50pm Shakespeare in Love 2pm. 5.40pm, 8.30pm BEXLEYHEATH CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR:

Bedeyheath A Bug's Life 12ncon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm, 9pm Enemy of the State 1,30pm, 4,10pm, 7,10pm, 9,40pm Jhoole Bole Kauwa Kaate 4pm Little Voice 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm The Mask of Zor-ro 1pm, 6.30pm Les Miserables 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.35pm Practical Magic 12.35pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm Shake-speare in Love Ipm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm The Slege 10pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm Very Bad Things 4pm,

ODEON (08705 050007) BR: Bromley North/Bromley South A Bug's Life 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Little Voice 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm Shakespeare in Love 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Stepmom 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm

CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: West/East Croydon Bulworth 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680

Enemy of the State 3.50pm. 6.40pm 9.40pm Little Voice 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Practical Magic 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.05pm Very Bad Things 2.40pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.50om

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) © Dagenham Heathway A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5.10pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm, 8.40pm, 9.40pm Enermy of the State 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm Little Volce 2nm, 4.30pm, 7.15pm 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm, 9.30pm Little Volce 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.15pm. 9.20pm Practical Magic 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 2.30pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm

EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-Virtain Oashide Road (1970-9070719) BR/O Ealing Broadway A Bug's Life 1,50pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Shakespeare In Love 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Stepmorn 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) & Edgware Aa Ab Laut Chalen phone for times Bade Dilwala phone for times A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.35pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Very Bad Things 5.20pm, 8.20pm Zakhm phone for times

EDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) & Tortenham Hale AA AB Laut Chalain 8.15pm A Bug's Life Laut Chalain 8.15pm A Bug's Life 2.10pm. 3.40pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 6.50pm, 8.20pm, 9pm Bulworth 6.30pm Enemy of the State 4.10pm, 7pm9.50pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 1.55pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm Living Out Loud 4.45pm, 7.30pm, 10pm Meet Joe Black 4.20pm, 8pm The Parent Tran 2.30pm Parents 10pm Meet Joe Black 4.2upm, opin The Parent Trap 2.30pm Practical Magic 3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.50pm Shakespeare in Love 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm The Slege 5.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm Step-mom 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Very Rad Things 10pm Bad Things 10pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Practical Magic 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-

CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (0181-867 0555) BR: Feltham AA AB Laut Chalain 11.45am, 3.30pm, 7.15pm A Bug's Life 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm, 9pm Enemy of The State 11.20am, 1.50pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 1.30pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.45pm 1.30pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.45pm Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! 11.15am, 2.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.05pm, 9.45pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 11.15am, Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 11.15am, 2.45pm. 6.15pm Little Volce 12.15pm. 2.30pm. 4.50pm, 7.05pm. 9.15pm Meet Joe Black 1.05pm. 4.30pm, 8pm The Opposite of Sex 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm Practical Magic 11.40am, 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm. 9.25pm Shakespeare In Love 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm. 9.30pm The Siege 9.50pm Stepmom 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 4.30p mom 11.15am, 1.45pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Very Bad Things 7.50pm, 10pm Zakhm 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.15pm

NORTH FINCHLEY WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446 9344) O East Finchley/Finchley Central A Bug's Life 2pm, 3pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 7pm, 7.50pm. 4.30pm, 3.30pm, 7pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm, 10pm Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.40pm8.50pm Little Voice 2.20pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.50pm Shake-speare in Love 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Stermoom, 1.20pm 6.10pm, 9pm Stepmom 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm Very Bad Things 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) @ Finchley Road A Bug's Life 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.15pm, 10.30pm Bulworth 5.05pm, 9.50pm Enemy of the State 4.10pm, 9.40pm Little Voice 1.50pm, 7pm The Oppo-site of Sex 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Practical Magic 2рт. 4.50рт, 7.20рт, 10рт Shakespeare in Love 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm Stepmom 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Two Girls And A Guy 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 7.30pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

FINCHLEY ROAD

ABC (0181-455 1724) Golders Green Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm

CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR Greenwich A Bug's Life 4 30pm 6.40pm, 8 50pm Hitary And Jackle 4.55pm Little Voice 7 luprii.

HAMPSTEAD

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-9070718) ⊕ Ham-

mersmith A Bug's Life 1 30pm. 6.20pm. 6.20pm. 8 30pm Little

b.20pm, 6.20pm, 6 supm Little Volce 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1,30pm Shake-speare in Love 12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm Stepmon 12.40pm 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

SAFARI (0181-426 0303) @ Har-

row-on-the-Hill Hum Aapke Hain Koun... 8.45pm Hu Tu Tu 8.45pm WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 WARNER VILLAGE (U181-42) 9009) & Harrow on the Hill A Bug's Life 11.10am. 1.15pm. 1.40pm. 3.35pm. 4.10pm, 6pm, 6.40pm. 8.30pm. 9.10pm Enemy of the State 12.15pm. 3.05pm.

State 12.15pm, 3.05pm. 6.05pm8.50pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 12.35pm, 2.45pm, 5.05pm, 7.75pm, 2.45pm, 5.05pm, 7.75pm, 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 1,10pm, 4pm, 6,50pm, 9,30pm Stepmom 12noon, 2,50pm, 5,40pm, 8,20pm ery Bad Things 1.30pm, 4pm,

6.30pm, 9pm HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705 050007) + Holloway Road/Archway A Bug's Life 12.05pm, 1.05pm, 2.20pm, 3.25pm, 4.35pm, 5.45pm, 6.50pm, 3.23pm, 4.33pm, 5.43pm, 6.30pm, 8.05pm, 9.05pm Enemy of the State 1.35pm 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 12pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm, Little Voice 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm Practical Magic 2.20pm, 6.50pm Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Stepmorn 12.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

ILFORD

ODEON (08705 050007) ◆ Gants

Hill A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.20pm,

6.40pm, 8.50pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm Shakespeare in Love 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Stepmom 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm Very Bad Things 8.45pm

KILBURN THE TRICYCLE (0171-328 1000) Kilburn Hideous Kinky 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Little Volce 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm

MUSWELL HILL ODEON (08705 050007) @ Highgate A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 4.50pm. 7pm, 9.05pm Shakespeare in Love 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Stepmon 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm,

PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye A Bug's Life 2.20pm. 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.10pm Enemy of the State 6.30pm, 9.05pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Little Voice 4.35pm Living Out Loud 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm The Mask of Zorto 4,300m The Parent Trap 2,100m Practical Magic 2.15pm, 7.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.45pm Shakespeare in Love 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm The Slege 9.15p

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley A Bug's Life 6pm, 8.40pm Little Voice 6.10pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

PUTNEY ABC (0870 9020401) & Putney Bridge Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Shakespeare in Love 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm

RICHMOND ODEON (08705 050007) BR/O-Richmond A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm

ODÉON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond Hillary And Jack-ie 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 7.10pm π (PI) 4.30pm, 9.40pm Practical Magic 2pm, 7pm Scepmon 2.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Very Bad Things 4.40pm, 9.30pm



MEET JOE BLACK (12)

Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinevorid, the Movies. Streetham APC

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket

See The Independent Recommends, above.

See The Independent Recommends, above.

PRACTICAL MAGIC (12) Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U) In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks

RUSH HOUR (15) Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with an LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wise-cracking black comic in Chris Tucker's buckstering LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss-affair. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Harrow Warner Village, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham

See The Independent Recommends, above.

out-of-sorts Susan Sarandon as a middle-aged matriarch squabbling over her offspring with the new model mom (Julia Roberts) that hubby Ed Harris has booked up with. The first mom gets poorly and laughter turns to tears (or at least weary resignation). West End: Odeon Comden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI

at the psychological make-up of its three central characters. Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Warner are the duped girlfriends of Robert Downey Jr's love-rat prima donna, and Two Girls and a Guy gives them plenty of room to move and breathe, turning the resulting yarn into a pungent acting showcase. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket.

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007) ← Marble Arch A
Bug's Life 2.05pm, 4.25pm,
6.45pm, 9.05pm Enemy of the
State 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm,
9pm Practical Magic 1.15pm,
6.25pm Shakespeare in Love
12.35pm, 3.25pm, 6.15pm,
9.15pm The Slege 3.35pm,
9.55pm Stepmom 12.30pm,
8.55pm Stepmom 12.30pm,
8.20pm, 6.10om, 8.55pm 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm

ODEON MEZZANTNE (08705-050007) ← Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & 3.55m, 6.20m, 8.45pm The 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Mask of Zorro 2.35pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm The Siege 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm There's

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) & Swiss Cottage A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Hideous Kinky 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Hillary and Jackle 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm Little Voice 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Shakespeare in 1.20pm, 1.20pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm

Court Road A Bug's Life 1.20pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.00pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm

(0990-888990) & Piccadilly Circus
Babe: Pig in the City 12.40pm
Saving Private Ryan 3pm,
7.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 7.30pm 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Very Bad Things 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.20pm

(0171-369 1720) & Green Park Hillary and Jackie 1pm. 3.30pm, (0171-/33 2229) BR/G Bricton The Flower of My Secret 2.10pm Hideous Kinky 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7.05pm, 9.15pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Little Voice 3pm, 5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.30pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm (+ Short: Horseshoe) Shakespeare in Love 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm CURZON MINEMA (0171-369 1723) & Hyde Park

CURZON 3090 (0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm) & Lelcester Square/Tottenham Court Road Bultworth 3.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Hideous Kinky 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9pm Hilary and Jackle 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm x (Pl) 1.15pm, 5.30pm (0990-888990) & Leicester Square Meet Joe Black 12noon, Square meet foe stack (2000), 3.40pm, 7.20pm The Prince of Egypt 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.15pm, Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) & Belsize Park Hilary and Jackle 3.10pm, UCI WHITELEYS

12.35pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm Stepmom 2.50pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm VIRGIN CHELSEA

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD 4.40pm. 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm, 5hakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Two Girls and A Guy 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.40pm (0870-907 0716) © Piccadilly Circus Enemy of the State 12noon. 2.50pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back

How Stella Got Her Groove Back
12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm
Living Out Loud 1pm, 3.20pm,
6pm, 8.20pm Practical Magic
12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm,
6.50pm, 9.15pm Shakespeare in
Love 12noon, 2.40pm, 5.30pm,
8.20pm Still Crazy 12.20pm,
2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.20pm
Very Bad Things 12noon,
2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm,
9.10pm

LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) & Park Royal A Bug's Life 12,10pm, 2pm, 2,30pm, 4,20pm, 4,50pm, 6,30pm, 7,10pm, 8,40pm, 9,35pm Enemy of the State 1.30pm. 1.10pm. 7pm. 9.50pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 8.55pm Little Voice 4.30pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm,

7.30pm, 10pm BARNET ODEON (08705 050007) + High Barnet A Bug's Life 2,20pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Practical Magic 1pm, 6.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12,45pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Scepmom

BECKENHAM

BROMLEY

ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Bulworth 2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm CROYDON

Croydon, A Bug's Life 5.40pm, 8pm Bulworth 5.30pm, 8.30pm Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain 5,15pm, 8.15pm 8090) BR: East Croydon A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 3.40pm, 4.50pm,

6.10pm, 7.10pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm

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ROMFORD ABC (0870-9020419) BR; Romford A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Very Bad Things 2.25pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 12noon, 1.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.45pm, 4.45pm. 6pm. 7pm. 8.15pm, 9pm Enemy of the State 2.45pm, 6.10pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Living Out Loud 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm Practical Magic 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.20pm, 2.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm 5.45pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things

ABC (0541-555131) BR: Skicup A Bug's Life 6.15pm, 8.45pm Shake-

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricklewood A Bug's Life 1pm. 2.20pm, 3 30pm, 4.40pm. 6pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Enemy of The State 9.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 3pm, 6pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm Practicat Magic 1,30pm, 4,15pm, 6,45pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Very Bad Things 9.15pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Living Out Loud 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Meet Joe Black 7.15pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 4.50pm

ODEON (08705 050007) BR-Streatham Hill/O Brixton/Clapham Common A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9pm Enemy of The State 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm. 8.25pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Stepmom 12.20pm, 3pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm Very Bad Things 8.20pm

STRAIFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/O Stratford East A Bug's Life 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.10pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 1pm. 3.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm Shake-speare in Love 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm Stepmom 1.05pm, 3.50pm, 8.30pm Very Bad Things 6.30pm

SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) ⊖ Surrey Quays Antz 1.50pm Babe: Pig in The City 2pm A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 2.10pm, 3.40pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.20pm Enemy of the State 9.20pm Hideous Kinky 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.45pm How Stella Got Her Groove Back 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm Little Voice 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.15pm The Oppo-site of Sex 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm 9.10pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.30pm Shake-speare In Love 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.40pm Stepmorn 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.25pm Very Bad Things 5pm. 7.30pm, 10pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sut ton/ Morden A Bug's Life 4.45pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.30pm Ene-my of the State 9.30pm Little Voice 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm Practical Magic 7.10pm Saving Private Ryan 4.30pm Shakespeare in Love 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4.30pm Step-3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Very Bad Things 9.45pm

TURNPIKE LANE CORONET (0181-888 2519) + Turnpike Lane A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm. 8.40pm Little Voice 4.15pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm Very Bad Things 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON (08705 050007) ↔ Uxbndge A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Stepmom 1.40pm,

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-9020424) @ Walthamstow Central A Bug's Life 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm Little Voice 1,30pm, 4,10pm, 6,20pm, 8,30pm Very Bad Things 1.25pm, 3.55pm,

WALTON ON THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 6pm. 35pm Stepmom 2.50pm, whom, 8.15pm WELL HALL

CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Lithum A Bug's Life 4pm. 6.30pm. \$ 40pm Shakespeare in Love ີ ປາກາກ, 6pm, 8.30pm

WILLESDEN DELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) • Wille-den Green Aa Ab Laut Chalen i;m A Bug's Life 4 45pm, 6.45p

ODEON (08705 050007) BR.'6 ODEON (08705 050007) BR-9-Wintblerion A Bug's Life 1 45pm, a 10pm, 6 30pm, 9.50pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 3 5rpm Practical Magic 1 35pm, 3 55pm, 6 20pm, 8.45pm Shake-speare in Love 12.20pm, 2.55pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm Stepmont 2.30pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm, 8.25pm, 8.35pm, 8.35pm, 8.25pm 5 35pm, 8 20pm St 2 30pm, 5 35pm, 8.25pm

WOODFORD ABC (0181-939 3463) @ South Woodlord A Bug's Life 1,40pm, 4pm 6,20pm, 8,40pm Little Voice 2 10pm 4 20pm, 6 30pm, 8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5 30pm, 8 10pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR. Woodenth Arsenal A Bug's Life 4gm, 6-30pm, 8,40pm Very Bad Things 3,55pm, 6,15pm, 8,45pm

WOOD GREEN NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) @ Turnpike Lane AA AB Laut Chalain 5.30pm Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place, 5W7 (0171-838 2144,2146) A la Vie. a la Mort (NC) 8.45pm

ICAThe Mail, SW1 (0171-930 3647) A Scene at the Sea (NC) 5pm, 7pm. Som A Master of Life and Death (PG) 6 30pm Black Narcissus (PG)

THE LUX Hoxton Square, N1 (0171-684 0201) Only Angels Have Wings: Rio at the Lux (NC) 2.30pm Dead Man; Rio at the Lux (18) 6 30pm + Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 8.35pm

NFT South Bank, SE1 0171-928 3232 My Name is Joe (15) 2.30pm Body Politics Part One: The Fem-Inine: Avant Garde Showcase (NC) 6.15pm The Stationmaster's Wife (Bolwieser) (18) 6.20pm Re-building Britain, from Slums to New Towns: Museum Special Event (NC) 7.30pm Les Diabotiques (The Flends) (15) 8.40pm Rush Hour (15) 8.45pm

PHOENIX High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) Hideous Kinky (15) 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place. WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Big Lebowski (18) 1pm Some Like it Hot (U) 3.30pm Breaking the Waves (18) 6pm Velvet Goldmine (18) 0 1500pm (18) 9.15pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road. W6 (0171-420 0100) Man Bites Dog (18) 6.45pm + Fun-ny Games 8.45pm WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High

Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Bulworth (18) 5pm, 9pm Year of the Horse (15) 7pm BRIGHTON DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-602503) Two Girls and a Guy (18) 2.30pm Hideous Kinky (15) 4.30pm. 9pm Appette + 0 & A with George Mit-

WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Hideous Kinky (15) 6pm, 8.30pm Pecker (18) 6.05pm, 8.20pm

ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Classe de Neige (Class Trip) (NC) 1pm: 7pm Hideous Kinky (15) 3pm. 9.15pm The Opposite of Sex (18)

CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-399666) Pecker (18) 2.30pm, 8pm Portishead: PYNC (NC) 7.30pm

PHOENIX ARTS (0116-255 4854) Alice (Svankmajer) (12) 6.15pm Left Luggage (PG) 8.30pm

CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Little Voice (15) 5.45pm Funny Games (18) 8.15pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BRISTOL ABC WHITELADIES ROAD (0117-973 3640); A Bug's Life (U); The Prince of Egypt (U); Shakespeare In Love (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Very Bad Things (18)

ARNOLFINI (0117-929 9191); The Mighty (PG): ★ (PI) (15) CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-

831099); The Adventures of Pinoc-chio (U): Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); A Bug's Life (U): Bulworth (18); Elizabeth (15); Enemy of the State (15); Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain (U); Aa Ab Laut Chalen (pg); Little Voice (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Meet Joe Black (12); Mrs Doubtfire (PG); The Parent Trap (PG); Practical Magic (12); The Prince of Egypt (U); Psycho (15): Rush Hour (15): Shake speare in Love (15); The Siege (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Stepmom (12); Very Bad Things

Life (U); Dr Dollttle (PG); Enemy of the State (15); Mulan (U); The Parent Trap (PG); Practical Magic (12); Stepmom (12)

ORPHEUS HENLEAZE (0117-962 1644): A Bug's Life (U): Elizabeth (15): Uttle Voice (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U)

SHOWCASE (0117-9723800); Antz (PG); A Bug's Life (U); Enemy of the State (15); Hideous Kinky (15); How Stella Got Her Groove Back (15): Little Voice (15); Living Out Loud (15); The Mask of Zorro (PG); Meet Joe Black (12): The Opposite of Ser (18): The Parent Trap (PG); Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Stepmom (12): Very Bad Things (18)

WARNER VILLAGE (0117-950 0222); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Blade (18); A Bug's Life (U); Enemy of the State (15); How Stella Got Her Groove Back (15); Little Voke (15); The Mask of Zorm (PG); Meet los Black (13); Meet los Black (ro (PG): Meet Joe Black (12): Muro (PG): Meet Joe Black (12): Mu-lan (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12); The Prince of Egypt (U): Rush Hour (15): Saving Private Ryan (15). Shakespeare in Love (15): The Slege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Stepmom (12): Very Bad Things (18)

PORTSMOUTH ABC (01705-823538); Antz (PG); Bulworth (18): Meet Joe Black (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Two Giris And A Guy (18)

ODEON (08705-050007): A Bug's Ufe (U): Dr Dolittle (PG); Enemy of the State (15): George of the Jungle (U): Mulan (U): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U); Small Soldier (PG): Stepmon (12): Very Bad

UCt 6 (0990-838990); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); A Bug's Life (U); Enemy of the State (15); Little Voke (15): The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Saving Private Ryan (15): Shakespeare in Love (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG); Stepmom (12); Very Bad Things

READING ABC (0370-9020417); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Meet Joe Black (12): Shakespeare in Love (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Very Bad Things (18)

FILM THEATRE (0118-986 8497); Henry Fool (18); Scream 2 (18); Velvet Goldmine (18)

ODEON (08705-050007); A Bug's Life (U): Dr Dolittle (PG); Enemy of the State (15); Mulan (U); The Parent Trap (PG): Practical Magic (12); Small Soldiers (PG); Stepmom (12)

SHOWCASE (0118-974 77111: A Bug's Life (U): Enemy of the State (15); Hideous Kinky (15); How Stella Got Her Groove Back (15); Little Voice (15); Living Out Loud (15); Meet Joe Black (12): The Opposite of Sex (18): Practical Magic (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): Stepmom (12); Very Bad Things (18)

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals.
— Seats at all prices I — Seats at some prices O — Returns only Matiness — [1]: Sun. [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur. [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

) ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Fe-licity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ♥ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19,50-£27,50 £12,50-£17.50 (restricted views). 130 mins.

DAMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama based on the life of Mozart. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/& Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, E7.50-E30. 180 mins.

● ANNIE Rags to riches story of the perpetually optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/O Vic-toria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] toria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, [1] 4pm, £7.50-£32.50.

ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb, Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's com-edy about art and friendship. Wyneoy about art and menosing. Wyndham's Theatre Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) & Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8.00pm, [4] 3.00pm, [7][1] 5.00pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

● BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lav-ish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale, Dominion Theatre Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊕ Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rossell's long-running Liverpool musi-cal melodrama. Phoentx Theatre tal melourami. Probeits Theatre Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-369 1733) & Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3.00pm. [7] 4.00pm. £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

D BUDDY Musical biog-show trace ing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Theatre Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊕ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu 8.00pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5.00pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matmees, 160

DCATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems, New London Theatre Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) & Covent Garden/Hofborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mlns. CHICAGO Maria Friedman and

Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins. THE COMPLETE WORKS OF

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespear Company fast-forward through 37 plays. Criterion Theatre Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) ⊕ Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7] 5.00pm, [1] 4.00pm, £6-£25, 120 mlps

of the atom. Duchess Theatre Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc-0171-344 4444) @ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £15-£30, 145 mins. O DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

D COPENHAGEN New drama from

Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the sexes. Apol-Io Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ. £10-£25, concs available.

● DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Ham-mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) & Hammersmith. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, E10-E32.50. 150 mins.

• Filumena Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timber-lake Wertenbaker's new translation of Eduardo de Filippo's play, Pic-cadilly Theatre Denman Street, WI (0171-369 1734) & Picc Circ.

DIGREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film. Cambridge Theatre Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£30.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) ← Picc Circ Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mlns.

● AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Theatre Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085) & Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5.00pm, £12-£29.50.

O INTO THE WOODS Sondheir based on the dark side of fairy tales. Donmar Warehouse Eartham Street. WC2 (0171-369 1732) & Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

THE KISSING DANCE OR SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER Burlesque musical comedy. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) • Hammersmith, Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, £10-£15, concs

ILITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EU-NUCHS Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halitwell's drama. Comedy Theatre Panton Street. SWI (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, (5)[7] 3pm, £7-£27.50.

THE MEMORY OF WATER ALIadman and Julia Sewalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral Vaudeville Theatre Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR'O Charing X. Mon-Sat Sprn. [5][7] 3pm, £8-£27.50. ● LES MISERABLES Musical

ASINGSTOKE HAYMARKET THEATRE The Seag-ull Cheichov's last play about a Russ-ian family windy trying to protect their estate as they lurch towards benk-ruptcy, Tue-Sat 7.45pm, ends 13 Feb. £9.50-£15.50, concs available dramatisation of Victor Flugo's mas-terpiece. Palace Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue. W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 2.30pm. £7-£35. 195 mins.

) MASS SAIGON Musical which resets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-

494 5060) O Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £5.75-£35. 165 mins.) THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's

Theatre West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) & Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5.00pm, E10-E24,50. 135 mins. DOKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed pro-duction of Rodgers and Hammer stein's cowboy v farmhand musical ed pro-

Lyceum Theatre Wellington Street, WC2 (0870-606 3446/cc 606 6446)

O Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£35. OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's The-atre Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) & Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£35, 150 mlj

RENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Theatre Shaftes-bury Avenue. WC2 (07000-211221) & Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-£32.50. 160 mins.

PRICHARD III Robert Lindsay stars as the historical villain. Savoy The-atre Strand. WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-836 0479) + Char-ing X/Embankment. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, £10-£27.50. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE CUTAL NATIONAL THEATRE

OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oirer's music accompanies the tale of
the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up,
with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller: in rep, today 2pm & 7.15pm,
ends 20 Feb.

DIYTTELTON: The Forest Alan Ayckbourn's new version of Ostrovsky's black social satire stars Frances de la Tour. In rep. tonight 7.30pm.

● COTTESLOE: The Riot Nick Darke's drama from Kneehigh The-atre. In rep. tonight 7.30pm, con-tinuing in rep. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£17. NT2000: £4, concs £3. Day seats from 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). ⊕ /BR: Waterloo.

● THE BARBICAN: Measure For Measure Stephen Boxer stars in Shakespeare's examination of justice. In rep, tonight 7.15pm,

THE PIT: Bad Weather Robert Holman's examination of the break-down in family relationships. In rep. tonight 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). THE YOUNG VIC: Talk Of The City Stephen Poliakoff's drama explores media control in the early days

of TV and radio. In rep, tonight 7pm. Young Vic: £5-£26. The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). BR/& Waterloo. SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia. London Palladlum Argyff Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Ctrc. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7]. 3.00pm, £12,50-£30. 150 mins.

OTHE STREET OF CROCODILES the inspiration for Theatre de Complicite's acclaimed and absurdist drama. Queen's Theatre Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 0171-344 4444) @ Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 8pm, [7] 3pm, [1] 5pm, ends 20 Feb, £6-£25.

● VASSA Howard Davies directs a new stage version of Maxim Gorky's tale of a matriarch and her downtrodden family. Albery Theatre St Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-369 THE MILL AT SONNING Two Dozes 1730) ← Leic Sq. Mon-Sar 7.30nm [5][7] 3pm, ends 27 Mar, £5-£29.50. romantic Rome. Tue-Sat 8.15om

O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND

Lloyd Webber's new musical based on the film of the same name. Ald-

THE WOMAN IN BLACK SU-

san Hill's chilling ghost story, Fortune Theatre Russell Street, WC (0171-

836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) O

8pm, [3] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50. 110 mins.

THEATRE

BEYOND THE WEST END

ALMEIDA THEATRE Certain Young

Men Peter Gill's comedy of con-temporary manners looks at the sexuality and the modern man. Mon-

Sat 7.30pm, mars Sat 3pm, ends 20 Feb. £9.50-£19.50, concs avail-

able. Almeida Street. N1 (0171-359

4404) Angel/Highbury and is-

GATE THEATRE Intimate Death

Stage adaptation of French psy-chologist De Hennezel's diaries, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 13 Feb. £10, concs £6. Pembridge Road, W11

(0171-229 0706) O Notting Hill

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON The

Vagina Monologues Eve Ensier

performs her own acclaimed off-

& Sun 3.30pm, ends 6 Mar. £12-£13. Upper Street. N1 (0171-226 1916)

THEATRE

COUNTRYWIDE

◆ Angel/Highoury & Islington.

Covent Garden/Holborn Mon-

THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Theatre Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane. SALISBURY WC2 (0171-565 5000) ♦ Leic Sq/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins. **● WEST SIDE STORY Brand new**

production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince of Wales Theatre Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) & Le-Lane (01722-320333) SEVENOAKS STAG THEATRE Talking Heads Three of Alan Bennett's funny yet touching and troubling studies of the folbles of human nature. Wed-Sat ic Sq/Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £18.50-£35. 160 mins.

wych Theatre Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) ⊕ Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-£32,50, 120 mins. SOUTHAMPTON NUFFIELD THEATRE Earth and Sky Thriller about a librarian who thinks Thur 7.30pm. Fri-Sat 8pm, ends 27 Feb. £5.95-£12.50, concs available University Road (01703-671771)

The Winter's Tale Seasonal tale of obsessive jealousy directed by Gregory Doran. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 4 Mar. £7-£30 Waterside (01789-05-679).

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Turgenev's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. Michael Attenboroug directs. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £5-£30 Waterside (01789-295623)

THE BREWHOUSE That'll Be the Day Musical taking audiences through 20 years of pop music, from the 1950s to the 1970s. Tonight 7.45pm. £12.50 Coal Orchard (01823-283244)

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA CLIFFS PAVELON Popcom Exima No-Station Road (01702-351135)

able London Road (01702-342564) NEW VICTORIA THEATRE The Girt

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

TAKE A TRIP back in time and see a performance at. the Globe Theatre. It was Sam Wariamaker's idea torestore the theatre and it has been very successful the previous season's shows sold out. Julius Caesar is first of four productions boasting the excellent Mark Rylance (right) at the directorial helm. Period: costumes, all-male casts and live music played on early instruments all lend these productions a powerful sense of the past.

The Globe, New Globe Walk, Bankside, London SE1 (0171-401 9919) to 21 Sept

MODERN FUNK STARS Bentley Rhythm Ace, who were a hit at some of last summer's music festivals. will seduce more audiences with their eclectic musical mix in a one-off gig. Drum'n bass, fink and dance beats are thrown in by the duo, who have a penchant for shades and afro wigs. It will be interesting to see just how the boys who had an irrepressible hit with "The Bentley's Goma Sort You Out", cope with the recent change at their record label, Skint, which was bought by Sony last year. Jacksons, Fisher Street, Carlisle (61228 596868) 24 Feb.

BATH THEATRE ROYAL Macbeth Rufus Sewell stars in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, mat today 2.30pm, ends 13 Feb. £10-£23.50 Sawclose (01225-

BRIGHTON KOMEDIA The Garden of Habustan Story of a young Israeli who en-counters an elderly Palestinian man who has returned to claim his land. Tue-Thur 8.30pm, ends 11 Feb. £7.50, concs £6 Gardner Street (01273-647100)

CHIPPING NORTON CHIPPING NORTON THEATRE Electra Kenneth McLeish's haunting and poetic translation of Sophoring street (01608-642350)

MILFORD HAVEN TORCH THEATRE The Woman in Black Chilling story with a twist. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 20 Feb. £8, concs £5 St Peters Road (01646-695267) Milford Haven

NEWBURY WATERMILL THEATRE More Talking Heads Janet Brown, Patricia England and Sophie Lawrence bring Alan Bennett's superb monologues to life. Tue-Sat 7.30pm. mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar. £6-£16.50 Bagnor (01635-46044)

NORTHAMPTON ROYAL THEATRE Dombey and Son Michael Napier Brown's adaptation of Dickens' novel about a man's obsession with his new son and his rejection of his daughter. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thur 2.30pm, Sat 5pm, ends 6 Mar, £4-£14.50 Gulid-hill Pand (0160-62) £32 hall Road (01604-632 533)

Noise Quietly Robert Hollman's series of short pieces depicting encounters between strangers in the shadow of war. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, ends 13 Feb. £6-£13 Beaumont Street (01865-798600) PETERBOROUGH

OKFORD
PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Making

KEY THEATRE Abigail's Party Steven Pinder (Brookside's Max Farnham) stars in Mike Leigh's comedy about social niceties in 1970s suburbia. Mon-Thur 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, mat Thur 2.30pm, ends 13 Feb. £9-£11.50, concs available Embankment Road (01733-552439)

ats Sat 2.15pm, ends 20 Feb. £21.95-£32.95 incl dinner Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000) SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE Blithe Spirit Noel Coward's comedy, about a man haimted by the spirit of his

ted Roses Comic love story set in

dead wife, is revived for his cen Mon-Wed 7.30pm, Thur-Sat 8pm, ends 13 Feb. E9-£15 Malthouse

8pm, ends 13 Feb. £8.50, concs £7.50 London Road (01732she knows her boyfriend well - until there is a murder and his murky past is revealed. Sam Janus stars. Mon-

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAXESPEARE THEATRE

Country Brian Friel's adaptation of

ble stars in Ben Elton's satire on cin-ema violence. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 6pm & 9pm, ends 13 Feb. £13.50-£22.50 PALACE THEATRE CENTRE Momen on the Verge of HRT Two fortysomething women discuss their situation in life. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 20 Feb. £5.50-£14.50, concs avail-

NEW VICTORIA THEATRE The Gir Game Frith Banbury directs Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tulin in this sen-sitive and furny drama which centres around a lengthy game of Gin Rum-my. Mon-Sat Born, mat Wed 2.30pm, ends 13 Feb. £6-£16, concs avail-able Peacocks Arts & Entertain-ments Centre (01483-761144)

المراجع والمراجع والمراجع والمسرو والمسرو المسرور

MUSEUM OF COSTLIME Primitive Streak: Helen Storey and Dr Kate Storey Collaboration between a fashion designer and a biologist. Mon-Sun 10am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.90, concs £3.50, child £2.90. group concs. Assembly Rooms. Bennett Street (01225-477789)

BRUTON BRUTON GALLERY Forming Figure Including works by Rodin and Henry Moore. Mon-Fri 10am-1pm & 2pm-Spm, ends 20 Mar, free. Stock-well House, Bruton High Street (11749-1232) (01749-812205)

EXHIBITIONS

CAMBRIDGE
FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM The Society of Three: Whistier, Fantin-La-tour and Alphonse Legros Exhibition of drawing and prints. Ends 14 Feb.

Picasso and Matisse Prints, drawings and ceramics from the muse-um's collection. Ends 11 Apr. porary American Prints Early etchings of the East Coast. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 2 May, free, Trumpi (01223-332900)

CARDIFF FFOTOGALLERY Josef Koudelka Photographic images in a major exhibition spread across four galleries.
Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm, ends 14 Feb, free. Charles Street (01222-

LONDON

BARBICAN ART GALLERY Africa by Africa: A Photographic View More than 200 images from sub-Sarahan Africa. Picasso and Photography: The Dark Mirror More than 300 works ex-plore the master's relationship with photography. Mon, Thur-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-5.45pm, Wed

10am-7.45pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 29 Mar. £5, concs £3, from Mon-Fri £3 after 5pm. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 4141) & Barbican. DESIGN MUSEUM Mini: Forty Years of a Design Icon Mini's designed by celebrities mark the 40th anniversary of the vehicle. Opens Feb 9. Ends 9 May. museum). Modern Britain 1927-1939 A study on the important period after the Great War including the work of Francis Bacon, Paul Nash and Barbara Hepworth. Mon-Sun 11.30am-6pm. ends 18 Jul. £5.25, concs £4

(to museum). Shad Thames, SE1 (0171-378 6055) O Tower H加. NATIONAL GALLERY In the Light

transparent calliery in the Light of Fra Angelko: Zanobi Strozzi Study exhibition exploring the paintings of the 15th-century artist. Ends 7 Mar. Portraits by largres Major exhibition of paintings and drawings by the 19th-century French artist. Mon, Tue. Trues and 10 are 15th 10 ar Thur-Sun 10am-6am, Wed 10am 10pm, ends 25 Apr. £6, concs £4, Wed £4 7pm-10pm, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (0171-747 2885) ⊕ Charing Cross, Leicester Square.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award Sixth annual exhibition of se-lected entries. Ends 14 Feb. The Art of Cooking: Barry Mars-den Photographs of chefs displayed in the cafe. Ends 1 Apr. Gerald Scarfe at the NPG Political ceriad Scarre at the NPG Political caricatures. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends 6 Apr, free. St Martins Place. WC2 (0171-306 0055) & Charing Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet in the 20th Century Eighty paintings made in the 26 years after 1900. Mon-Thur, Sun 9am-6pm, Fri & Sat 9am-10pm, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6. child (12-18) £3. child

TATE GALLERY Turner in the Alps Works on paper made on Turner's lirst Alpine trip in 1802. Ends 14 Feb. In Celebration: The Art of the Country House Paintings and sculpture, including work by Canaletto, Stubbs and Holbein. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm. ends 28 Feb, free. Millbank. SW1 (0171-887 8000) ⊕ Pimlico.

OXFORD ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Chine ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM Chinese Silks Bright 18th and 19th century hangings. Ends 28 Feb.
Nineteenth Century French Drawings Recent acquisitions alongside familiar drawings. Ends 28 Feb.
The Painterly Brush Oil sketches dating from the 18th to the early 20th century. Line St. 10 per feet. century. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 21 Mar, free. Beau-mont Street (01865-278000)

ST IVES TATE GALLERY Displays 1998-9: Partnerships and Practice Paintings and ceramics from the second half of the century plus a selection of contemporary work. Quoit Montserrat: Veronica Ryan Marble sculpture linking St Ives with Montserrat in the West Indies, the artist's hirthplace. the artist's birthplace, Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 11am-5pm, ends 11 Apr. £3.50, concs £2. Portrimeor Beach (01736-796226)

GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY Venice Through Canaletto's Eyes
Twenty-three peintings and drawings
by the Venetian artist, Tue-Sun 10am5pm, ends 14 Mar, free. Alexandra Road (01792-651738/655006)

CLASSICAL

LONDON ST JOHN'S, SMITH SOUARE Charnber Choir of the Arts Educational School Words and music for Valentine's Day. Tonight 7.30pm. 59.50-£15. Smith Square, SWI (0171-222 1061) & Westminster.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL New London Consort/Pickett Recreating the medieval Feast of Fools. Tonight 7.45pm. £8-£20. South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo.

POOLE WESSEX HALL, POOLE ARTS CEN-TRE Bournemouth Symphony Or-chestra/Moldoveanu Including Beethoven's 5th Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm. £6-£24. Kingland Road (01202-685222/cc 674234)

DANCE

CANTERBURY MARLOWE THEATRE Richard Alston Dance Company. Triple Bill Includes the new work Red Run commissioned by the Holland Dance Festival. Tonight 7.30pm. £7-£13, concs available. The Friars (01227-7877871

LONDON SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEA-COCK THEATRE Paco Pena Flamenco Presents La Musa Gitana World class flamenco dence, song and guitar Tue-Sat 8pm, mat Sat, Sun 3pm, ends 7 Mar. £7.50-£27.50. Portugal Street, WC2 (0171-863 8222) & Holborn/Temple.

SADLER'S WELLS Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Prospect Before Us/The Protecting Veil/In The Up-per Room Works by Dame Ninette de Valois, David Bintley and the Olivier award winner Twyla Tharp's In The Hong Room a dramtic niere In The Upper Room, a dramtic of Tonight 7.30pm, Sat mat 2.30pm. F7 50 F62 50 B EC1 (0171-863 8000) + Angel.

LITERATURE

LONDON EXPRESS EXCESS: LITERATURE EVENT Jem Rolls, Tom Barnes and Paul Kennedy present an evening of humour, lyricism, fantasy and social comment. The Enterprise Haverstock Hill NW1 (0171-485 2659) & Chalk

Farm. Tonight 9pm, £4, concs £3. TERRY GILLIAM Monty Python. Twelve Monkeys and Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas director in conversation with Richard Seymour. Logan Hall, University of London Bedford Way WC1 (0870-840 1111) Russell Sq. Tonight 7.15pm, £15,

ARCHETYPES IN LITERATURE VERSIONS OF HEATHCLIFF John Sutherland traces the origins and derivations of one of the most potent characters in literature. Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo. Tonight 7.30pm. £4, concs £2.50.

COMEDY

FASCINATING AIDA - BAREFACED CHIC AT THEATRE ROYAL, HAY-MARKET Cabaret trio Dille Keane, Adele Anderson and Issy Van Rand-wyck. Mori-Sat 7.45pm, Sat mat 4pm, ends 6 Mar, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Piccadilly Cir-

THE COMEDY STORE The Comedy Store Players with Neil Mullarkey, Jim Sweeney, Richard Vranch, Niall Ashdown, Tony Hawks, Lee Simpson. Tonight 8pm. Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426-914433/cc 0171-344 4444) Piccadilly Circus, £11. NUS £7. PORTSMOUTH ED BYRNE AT WEDGEWOOD

ROOMS Whimsical Perrier Award

CLUBS

BRIGHTON BULLIT AT HONEY CLUB Big beat, funk and more. Tonight 10pm-2am, free. King's Road Arches [01273-

BRISTOL INHOUSE AT CAFE BLUE Garage and hard house session. Tonight 9pm-2am, £3. The Old Fire Station. Silver Street (0117-940 5626)

LONDON SWERVE AT THE VELVET ROOM Jungle from Addiction, Grooverides and Pabio. Tonight 9pm-2,30am. Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-439 4655) & Tottenham Court Road, £6.

ORGANISED SOUND AT THE CLIN-IC Starring Ninja's awesome DJ Vadim, Attica Blues man Charlie Dark and guests. Tonight 10pm-4am. Genard Street, W1 (0171-734 9836) ← Leicester Square, £7, £5

EVENTS

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CARDIFF TOWARDS A SINGLE CURRENCY TOWARDS A SINGLE CURRENCY First showing of the British entries from the coinage design competition for the European Single Currency. National Museum And Gallery Cathays Park (01222-573473) Tue-Sun 10am-5pm, 6 ends, £4.25; concs £2.50, family £9.75, under 5s. free (museum entry).

DORCHESTER A CELEBRATION OF QUILTS: EX-HBITION Thomas Hardy's Shidy, plus modern and antique quits on view, and designer quits and cush-ions made in Dorset for sale. Dorset County Museum High West Street (01305-262735) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 20 Feb, £3. child/OAP £1.50, under 5's free.

LEWISH ARTS FOCUS A wide range of arts events drawn from Jewish cul-ture, with theatre, music and comedy. The Bull Theatre Gallery Studios High Street (0181-449 0048) • ligh Barnet. Ends 14 Feb. phone for SPRINT '99: FESTIVAL OF PHYSI-

CAL, VISUAL AND UNUSUAL THE-

ATRE With humour horror storytelling

and dragons. Camden People's The-atre Hampstead Road NW1 (0171-

916 5878) & Camden Town. Ends 13 Feb, phone for details. **MUSIC**

BRIGHTON HEATHER NOVA, NAOMI Bermudan singer songwriter whose cult fol-lowing has grown steadily over the last few years, garnering Tori Amos and Sheryl Crow comparisons. The Point Richmond Place (01273-702333) Tonight 8pm, £5.

HARLOW ANNIE CHRISTIAN, DIRTY HARRY Exinburgh's hard rocking headliners play their new single, Some Day My Prince Will Come Again. The Square Fourth Avenue (01279-305000)

Tonight 8pm, £3.50. LONDON HEATHER MYLES The Borderline Manette Street W1 (0171-734 2095) & Tottenham Court Road.

ht 8.30pm, £7. MULTON KEYNES BELINDA CARLISLE Giamorous former Go Go and international solo star, presenting her new acoustic material from the latest album, A Woman and a Man. The Stables Stockwell Lane, Wavendon (01908-583928) Tonight 8pm, phone for

PLYMOUTH LEVELLERS The seminal heroes of folk rock and counter-culture, playing the hits on their One Way Of Life tour. The Pavilion Armada Way (01752-229922) Tonight 8pm, £12.

MUSIC JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

BEVERLEY KNIGHT Award win-ning Wolverhampton-born R&B swing queen performs her new Prodigal Sista album. The Honey Club King's Road Arches (01273-202807) Tonight 7.30pm, £6.

JERRY HOLLAND, ATLANTIC BRIDGE Acclaimed Cape Breton fiddler on a UK tour. St Georges Hall Fore Street (01392-422137/cc 219741) Tonight 7.45pm, phone for LONDON MIKE MCCOY'S TRIBUTE TO JO-BIM Considered back to bossa pro-ject, 606 Club Lots Road SW10

(0171-352 5953) + Fulham Broadway/Earls Court. Tonight 9,30pm & PHILIP CATHERINE/CHRIS MINH DOKY Fiery modal guitar and bassled trio. Pizza Express Jazz Club Dean Street W1 (0171-439 8722)

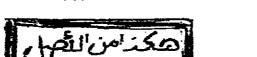
O Tottenham Court Road, Tonight 9pm. £12.50. DRUMMERS OF BURUNDI Earsplitting 16-strong drum troupe Roy-al Festival Hall South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo. Tonight 8pm, £12-£15.

VIKTORIA TOLSTOY QUARTET Standards to soul vocalist featuring body tipped planist Jan Lundgren. Pizza on the Park Knightsbridge SWI (0171-235 5273) & Hyde Park Corner, Ronight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, £18, adv £16. FLORA PURIM/AIRTO MOREIRA, ARNE DOMNERUS Brazilian fusion

estitution, support set from leading

Swedish saxman, Ronnie Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-439 0747)

& Leicester Square. Tonight 9.30pm, £15. mems £4 (Mon-Thu); £20, mems £8 (Fri-Sat). ANITA WARDELL Sweet-toned Australian scat vocalist, Vortex Stoke Newington Church Street N16-(0171-254 6516) BR: Stoke Newngton, Tonight 9pm, £6, concs £4.



7.00 Nick Barraclough. 8.00

Mike Harding. 9.00 The Andy

the Pops 2 on 2 10.30 Nicky

Horne. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich.

3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

10.30 Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories. See Pick of

7.30 Performance on 3. Conduc-

RADIO 3

CRICHESTER

VIL3C

(90.2-924MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks

the Day.

12.00 Composer of the Week:

12.00 Compositions Telemann.
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.

1.00 The RBC Orchestras.

2.00 The BBC Orchestras.
4.00 Choral Evensong.
5.00 in Tune.

tor Mark Wigglesworth, Maurice Hasson (violin), Paul Meyer (clar-

inet), Steven Burnard (viola).

9.20 Postscript. Five pro-

Face is Your Fortune'. Magnum

photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits

--- by the guitarists Barbieri, Aquilar

and Riverol Recorded in Buenos

(29861). 2-00 Merin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1995) (98701). 4-00 The Good

Glass Cage (1996) (19666546).

(1996) (28132), 11.00 Playing to Win (1997)

(22126). 1.00 Ferrmes Fatales (5574). 1.30 Action Heroes (9422300). 2.15 Movie

Magic (2560010). 3.00 Here Comes the

Son (1996) (47584), 5.00 Norwood (1970) (48381), **7.00** Playing to Win (1997) (98261). **8.30** El News Week in Review (2919).

9.00 Sins of the Mind (1997) (2667). 11.00 The Killing Grounds (1997) (258768). 12.35 Marril Blues (1990) (713256). 2.35

Weapon (1942) (4393652), 5-30 Holly-

wood Hall of Fame (3423687). See Pick of

the Day. 6.00 East of Eden (1955) (1017381). 8.00 The Gallant Hours (1960)

erty Valance (1962) (87526861). 12.05

12 Monkeys (6754749). 11.45 Time after

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

4.00 Rex Hunt Specials Vanuatu

3628229) 4.30 Welker's World (3544213)

5.00 Wheel Nuts (474687) 5.30 Tressure Hunters (553565) 6.00 Arieral

Octor (3532473) 6.30 Adventures of the

Duest (836025) 7.30 The Elegant Solu-

ion (3545942). 8.00 Arthur C Clarke's

ime (1979) (4565316) 1.35 Joy Luck Jub (1993) (98700343) 3.50 - 6.00

The Great Dictator (1940) (40183237). 2.20
The Eighth Day (1996) (8179904). 4.30
Tight Spot (1955) (4458169). 5.45 Close.

FILMFOUR

5.00 The Navigator (1988) (1296478).
7.30 La Jetee (1962) (1522720). 8.00
Twelve Monkeys (1995) (79624890). 10.15
The Harnster Factory and Other Tales of

leavy (1995) (12815463).

(1029126). 10.00 The Man Who Shot Lib-

SKY CINEMA

4.00 Sherlock Holmes and the Secret

Mind Breakers (1996) (744188). 3.50 Graffi-ti Bridge (1990) (7865035). 5.20 - 7.00

SKY MOVIEMAX

7.00 Farmes Fatales (56403), 7.30 Ac-tion Heross (5713942), 8.15 Movie Megic (9855120), 9.00 Here Cornes the Son

of the century's celebrities. (R)

grammes celebrating 50 years of

photoiournalism from the world's

9.45 Carlos Gardel. Vintage love

10.00 Ensemble. In the second of

Respighi: Fountains of Rome, ra-ganini: Violin Concerto No 1 in D. Berio: Alternatim (first UK perfor-mance). Respighi: Pires of Rome

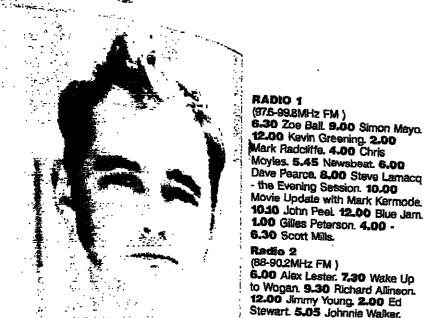
most famous photo agency. 3: 'My

songs from the celebrated Argen-

tinian tango singer, accompanied

Peebles Soul Show. 10.00 Top of

THE STEP WITH REVIEW,



CLASSICAL

BE BEST TOTAL TO THE STREET

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DANCE

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पुरुष्ट्राचे । अपूर्णिय रहेराहरू छ। व्यक्तियो सम्बद्धाः च वृत्ताः ।

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Jan Barrier

3BC1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 London except: 12.30
(otaman (36937778), 12.45 Dochaldh
Aor (Oeleey Doke) (26333671), 6.00
4ews (381), 6.30 Reporting Scotland;
Veather (861), 9.30 Ex-5 (38476),
10.00 Chewin' the Fat (97887), 10.30
(18ide Story (584792), 11.20 The X Files
431768), 12.15 Black and White
244850), 12.40 Skiing (8457527), 1.15
oins BBC News 24 (46951904),
18814 MALLES

DEC! WALES IBC1 WALES
Is BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales
bdey (861), 10.15 The State (203836),
0.45 Inside Story (765942), 11.40 Black
Ind White (675300), 12.15 Sking (20678),
2.45 Film: A Woman Scorned (645896),
.20 Joins BBC News 24 (56389904).

MGLIA is Cartton except: 12.20 Anglia lews and Weather (8556039), 1.00 Inortland Street (9817942), 1.35 Home

WEDNESDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

the times - a selection of love letters between Abelard, the 11th-century French theologian. and his pupit, Heloise, Ranjit Bolt has provided the translation. R4) is about the goings-on in which Anton Lesser (right) and Lynsey Baxter serve valigntly.

and reworkings, Penny Gore intro-

duces a set of sprightly variations

by Beethoven, a completion of a

movement for piano and strings

by Busoni. Beethoven: Variations on a Theme from Handel's 'Judas

Maccabaeus'. Lowri Blake (cello).

John Lenehan (piano). Mozart,

compl Druce: Allegro in B flat, K510c. Gaudier Ensemble. Bach,

arr Busoni: Chaconne in D minor.

10.45 Night Waves. Is there a dis-

tinctive Scottish architecture? How

far does national identity find its

Cumming explores the argument

that, from individual geniuses like

Adam and Mackintosh to the de-

communities, Scottish architecture

has developed in ways quite dis-

cusses the world premiere of lain

Crichton Smith's last work. 'The

verse Theatre in Edinburgh.

12.00 Composer of the Week:

Liszt. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.30 Tomorrow at the Same

11.00 NEWS; Murder, Magic and

11.30 Jazz Notes.

RADIO 4 (924-94.6MHz FM)

9.45 Serial: Tulip.

Medicine.

Time. (R)

two programmes of transcriptions 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; Midweek

Visitor', commissioned by the Tra-

tinct from English. She also dis-

signers and planners of urban

expression in buildings? Laura

Katia Apekisheva (piano).

by Mozart, and a mighty warhorse

OUR CHIEF INSPECTOR of The subject of today's Sound schools, Chris Woodhead, might Stories (11am R3) is Isadora derive some comfort from the Duncan, the woman who lived Afternoon Play (2.15pm R4). to dance until the moment her It deals with a love at odds with scarf got caught in the wheel of a fast-moving automobile.

A new comedy series with shades of Reeves and Mortimer. MacFintock's Palace (11.15pm a madcap Victorian music hall. DOMINIC CAVENDISH



12-57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 Board Game. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: The Letters of Abelard and Heloise. See Pick

3.00 Gardeners' Question Time. 3.30 Going, Going, Gone. 3.45 This Sceptred Isle. 4.00 NEWS; All in the Mind. 4.30 Thinking Allowed.

5.00 PM.

6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 Like They've Never Been 7.00 NEWS; The Archers.

7:15 Front Row. Mark Lawson chairs the arts programme. 7.45 Speaking for Themselves. Ten dramatised excerpts from the letters of Britain's great wartime leader and his wife Clementine, taken from the newly published collection edited by their daughter, Mary Soames. With Alex Jennings as Winston, Sylvestra le Touzel as Clementine, and Helen Bourne as the narrator (8/10).

8.00 NEWS; The Moral Maze. Michael Buerk and regulars Janet Daley, David Starkey, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook investigate the moral guestions behind the week's news. 8.45 Letter from Laramie. Fraser

Harrison writes an audio letter from his cowboy childhood in his back garden in 1940s Liverpool. Do big boys still need the Wild 9.00 NEWS; Frontiers. Digging

Deep'. Deep sea mining may

sound like the stuff of James Bond films, but spectacular discoveries in the ocean near Australia could prove the catalyst for a technological revolution. Peter Evans investigates. 9.30 Midweek. Libby Purves and

guests engage in lively chat. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Mark Twain Stories. Experience of the MacWilliamses with Membraneous

Croup'. Kelsey Grammar reads the third of five tales. 11.00 NEWS; Truly, Madly, Bletchley. Written by Julian Dutton, A feast of entertainment from the town they forgot in the 'AA Guide to Weekend Breaks'. With Liz

Fraser, Peter Hugo-Daly, Stephen Critchlow and Matthew Bell. Special guest Cleo Rocos (1/6). 11.15 MacFlintock's Palace. See Pick of the Day. 11.30 The Cheese Shop Presents - the Butter Factor. 12.00 News.

12.30 Late Book: Lemona's Tale. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693 909kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra. 7.30 John Inverdale's Football Night. Full coverage of all the night's internationals as England play world champions France at Wembley and the Republic of Ireland take on Paraguay at Lansdowne Road. Plus the National Lottery Draw. 10.00 Littlejohn. Richard Little-

john takes listeners' calls on England's performance against France. Phone 0500 909693. 11.00 Late Night Live With Nick Robinson, Including a late news briefing at 11,00, and at 11,15 The Financial World Tonight and a topical late-night discussion. 1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. CLASSIC FM

(100.0-101.9MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12-00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Crick. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. VIRGIN RADIO

(1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105,8MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forrest. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Pete & Geotf. 10.00 James Merritt. 1.00 Steve Power. 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO**

(198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 Meridian (Live). 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Everywoman, 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 -

7.00 The World Today (4.00-7.00). TALK RADIO 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Justice with Jacobs. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 SportZone. 7.00 Offside with Seb Coe. 8.00 James Whale, 12.00 - 6.00 lan Collins.

having Badiy (8505671). **9.40** Men Behaving Badiy (2788565). **10.20** Only Fools

and Horses (9782774). 12.15 The Bill

The Black Adder (8427782), 1.50

LIVING

(7166140). 12.45 The BN (7165411). 1.15

Spender (3316614), 2.45 - 7.00 Shop-

6.00 Tiny and Crew (37905403). 6.20

Johnson and Friends (83812774). 6.30

Philbert the Frog (12993861), 6.40 Tiny Tales (84340315), 6.45 Greedysaurus and the Gang (84349687), 6.50 Police

Dot Shorts (84257652). 7.00 Practical

Parenting (5916652). 7.05 Professor Bub-ble (8557836). 7.30 Calliou (1078316).

7.35 Bug Alert (7701749), 7.55 Practical Parenting (4247769), 8.00 Barney and

(1762565). 8.30 Caillou (8033381). 8.35

Tiny and Crew (5479687), 8.50 Practical

Parenting (7646126). 9.00 Can't Cook,

Cook (5344958). 6.15 The Jerry Springe

(2411519), 7.35 Animal Rescue (2672294).

8.10 Maury Povich (4821107), 9.00 Film:

Show (3081403), 7.05 Rescue 911

Friends (4320045), 8.25 Babaloos

Won't Cook (5157229), 9,30 The

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN FM IN Calcutta at the moment.

playing in the 10th annual Goodricke International Open. The Goodricke is the strongest annual event in Asia and this year 66 players are involved, from 15 countries. Sixteen grandmasters

are included This is my third visit to this excellent event, though in contrast to previous years, this time I'm the only English player in a sea of ex-Soviets and therefore face a particularly hard task. Indeed we should all be pretty tired by the end of the event, for there aren't any rest days, and they've added an extra round to make 11 consecutively. After three days the top seed, Alexei Fedorov, was the only player left with a perfect score. The fifth is

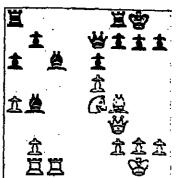
being contested today. First-round games are always somewhat nervy and mine, against a reasonable Indian international master, was no exception.

After the 12 Rb1?, Black was doing well. I couldn't play 14 b4 in view of Ne5! but really ought to have equalised with 14 Ne4.

15 ...Bd7 was also good, as was 16 ... Qd8!? 17 Qe2 e5. Things started to go wrong for him after 18 ...Ne5 missing 19 Bf4! - 18 ...Qf6 looked better. But 19 ... f6 was quite playable, as was 20 ... Bxf4 21 Qxf4 Bd7 22 Qc7 Qe8!

21 ...Bc5 was much better. though after 22 Qg3 (also conceiv- 13 Bd3 Bd6! ably 22 Qxb7!?) 22 ...Rfc8 23 Ne4, I 14 Bd2?! Nc5! have an excellent game.

In the diagram the sacrifices win, If 24 ...Kh8 25 Bg5 Qc5 26 Qe4 g6 27 Qh4 h5 28 Nxh5 etc. He defended resourcefully - if instead 25 ...Kh8 26 exf6 Qd8 27 Bg7+ Kg8 28 Qg4 Qd3 29 Bxf8+ Kxf8 30 Qxb1+



etc - but the endgame with queens and rooks was hopeless.

In fact, I'd stupidly missed 38 ...Qxh3, but luckily I hadn't spoil: anything. At the end 41 ... Of5 42 Oxf5 exf5 43 Rxh7 Rc2 44 Rh6 + Ke7 45 Rb8 is trivial.

White: Jon Speelman Black: RB Ramesh Queen's Gambit Meran

4 d4 c6

10 a4 c5

18 Qe2 Ne5?!

19 B(4 Nxf3+

20 Qxf3 Bd7.º

21 e5 Bb1

1 Nf3 Nf6 22 Net Bc6 vsee diagram 3 Nc3 d5 23 Rxc6! bxc6 24 Nf6+; exf6 25 Bh6 Bd2: 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Qc Bd6 26 exts Qes 7 Be2 0-0 27 Qg3+ B45 8 0-0 dxc4 28 Bxg5 Qi5 29 Bhū+ Q26 9 Bxc4 a6 30 BXE KXS 11 dxe5?! Bxc5 31 Od6 - Kg8 12 Rb1? Oc7! 32 Rd1 Oxf6 33 Rd4 a5 31 🕰 QX 15 Rfc1 Nxd3 35 hG QG 16 Qxd3 Qe7 36 Qxc6 RbS 37 Qc7 RfB 17 e4 Ng4

38 Rf4 Qxh3

39 Qxa5 Rc3

40 Qg5+ Kf8

41 Rh4 1-0

BRIDGE

ON THIS deal West achieved something of a triumph when he chose a good moment to open with a distinctly sub-standard pre-emptive bid. South ended in an inferior contract and followed by missing the spectacular play that would have repaired the damage.

West opened Three Clubs and, after two passes, South had a problem. He started with a double but his partner's response of Three Spades did not really help. With a choice between Four Hearts (which would have been an easy contract) and 3 no-trumps, he chose the latter (which was not).

Although a club lead would have given South no chance. West was afraid that a lead away from his king might cost a vital trick and he selected the six of spades for his opening salvo, which at least gave declarer some breathing space. He tried a tempting ten from dummy but East did not oblige and South won in hand. There seemed nothheld both the ace and king of hearts and had started with at most two clubs. Accordingly South and cleared the suit.

other top heart, he was unkind needs by playing on hearts.

North **◆**A 10987 807 09762 **4Q2** West **East ♠**62 **◆**Q543 VAK5 0105 0843 4KJ10975 4863 South ♠KJ **CQ11098 ♦AKQJ 4**A4

North-South game; dealer West

Have you spotted the brilliancy that South had missed? As long as he assumes that West holds the king of clubs, all should have been well. After winning the first trick with +J, he follows with the king ing for it but to hope that East and overtakes with dummy's ace. Then he leads the ten of spades and - wait for it! - discards his ace of clubs! Now, if the defenders attack made a start on hearts. He held off clubs, dummy's queen is an entry on East's club return but West won to the two spade winners; if they never lead clubs. South has plenty Now, when East got in with his of time to establish the tricks he

enough to produce a third club...

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

6.00 Mertin's Shop of Mystical Wonders (1995) (97565), 8.00 The Good Old Boys (1995) (33010), 10.00 Northern Lights (1997) (65590), 12.00 Rhinestone (1984) Lights (1997) (56010), 7.30 Barry Normans
Lights (1997) (56010), 7.30 Barry Normans
The Firm Night (8045), 8.00 The Evening Star
Lights (395) (395)3861), 10.40 Con Air (1997)
Lights (11478), 12.40 A Thirt Line between Love will just be happy to be able to and Marcel Desailly. concentrate on playing a game. and Hate (1996) (106817). 2.00 The Pope Must Die (1991) (460614). 3.40 - 5.00 The evening, the home team will against the world champions. Selection vagaries willing, one of the most intriguing clashes

Michael Owen, emerging as one

AFTER ALL THE turmoil of the world's top strikers, and involving Glenn Hoddle earlier his French Premiership rivals this month, the England team from Chelsea, Frank Leboeuf

For England vs France (7pm of those stars whose off-screen Sky Sports 2) at Wembley this existence has often attracted be eager to prove their class work. Her extraordinary life including both film career and serial marriages - is featured on tonight's Hollywood Hall of should be between England's Fame (5.30pm Sky Cinema). JAMES RAMPTON

Mysterious World (4690671), 8.30 Creatures Fantastic (4686478), 9.00 The Unexplained (6320045). 10.00 War and Civilisation (6323132). 11.00 The Fastest Car on Earth (9732768). 12.00 Searching for Lost Worlds: Machu Picchu (6256430). 1.00 Treasure Hunters (2980148), 1.30 Wheel Nuts (3925679). 2.00 Close(). SKY ONE

7.00 Count Duckula (85107), 7.30 The Chris Evens Breakfast Show (55316), 8.30 Hollywood Squares (34132). 9,00 Sally Jessy Raphael (51519). 10-00 The Oprah Wintrey Show (73126). 11-00 Guittyl (59590). **12.00** Jenny Jones (86039), **1.00** Mad about You (64478), 1.30 Jeopardy (62403). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (24316 3.00 Jenny Jones (71687). 4.00 Guityl (87294). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (5039). 6.00 Guittyl (2671). 6.30 Friends (3923). 7.00 The Simpsons (6768). 7.30 The Simpsons (9107). 8.00 Stargate SG-1 (59836), 9.00 The X-Files (19652), 10.00 Naked in Westminster (28039), **11.00** Friends (88923), **11.30** Star Treic Voyager (43768), **12.30** The Commish (35817). 1.30 - 7.00 Long Play (7615850).

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (3409720). 745 World Wrestling Federation - Livewire (378749), 8.15 You're on Sky Sports 98010). 9.00 Racing News (14923 9.30 Asrobics - Oz Style (58855), 10.00 Inside Scottish Football (15126), 11.00 Sports Unlimited (91690), 12.00 Aerobics

Elizabeth Taylor (right) is one more attention than her film

- Oz Style (96377), 12.30 Premier Snook-er League (63861), 2.30 World Windsurfing (3132). 3.00 Inside Scottish Football (33497), 4.00 Superbouts Hagler vs Antuofermo (18132). 5.00 World Wres Federation Shotgun (7229), 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (4861), 6.30 Boxing - Big Fight Countdown (2213). 7.00 Golf Extra 887). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (358923), 10.45 You're on Sky Sports (574316), 10.45 Bosing - Big Fight Count-down (821107), 11.30 European Your Golf

Magazine (81671). 12.00 Sky Sports Can-tre (7694614). 12.15 You're on Sky Sports (3534053). 1.00 - 7.00 Golf (1489633). SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3041251). 7.30 International Cricket (6229671), 11.00 World Windsurfing (4953126). 11.30 Squash (5976855). 12.30 International Footbell England U21 vs France U21 (4973316), 2.30 Fastrax (9395403), 3.00 International Cricket (1495749), 6.00 Pool (3990671). 7.00 International Football England vs France (9886565). See Pick of the Day. 10.30 Unbelievable Sports (5398316), 11.00 Watersports World (6297359), 12.00 V-Max (7960985). 12.30 International Footbell England vs France (5944430). 2.00 Unibel

tre (60316362). 2,45 Close. SKY SPORTS 3 12.00 World Wrestling Federation Shotgun (87056565), 1.00 Fish TV The Uttimate

Sports (3781966). 2.30 Sky Sports Cen-



Fishing Show (90847107). **1.30** Fish TV Fishing Tales (87149229). **2.00** Superbouts 233). 3.00 Olympic Serie (87275132). 3.30 Golf Extra (38593861). 6.30 European Tour Weekly (87931923). 7.00 International Cricket (12148120), 10.00 FA Cup Classics (68735316), 11-30 Close. EUROSPORT

7.30 Football (99720), 9.00 Blathlon (88687). 10.00 Blathion (36687). 12.00 Sking (3977). 1.00 Ski Jumping (42294). 2.00 Blathion (76010). 3.30 Ternis (3723010), 7.00 Start Your Engines (45774), 8.00 Stock Car Racing (78768), 9.30 Darts (97213). 10.30 Fitness (44584). 11.30-12.30 Start Your Engines (87126).

7.00 Crossroads (9725478), 7.30 Neighbours (4955565), 7.55 EastEnders (5140403), 8.30 The Bill (8123316), 9.00 The 58 (8041768), 9.30 When the Boat Comes in (5381805), 10.30 Rhoda Enders (7799229), 1.00 Juliet Bravo (8311854). 2,00 Dellas (5827590). 2.55 The Bill (5273107). 3.25 The Bill (9666497). 3.55 EastEnders (8975958). The Comedy Alternative: Dad's Army The Detectives (6896381), 9.00 Men Be-

Roseanne Show - Highlights (3331768).

UK GOLD

(8030652), 11.00 Dellas (4013855), 11.55 Naighbours (78759478), 12.25 East-4.30 Rhoda (3546671). 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small (4682652). 6.00 Dynasty (7765710), 7.00 The Comedy Ale: 2point4 Children (3267132), 7.40 (7481774). 8.20 The Comedy Alternative:

10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5760132). 10.50 Maury Povich (7251584). 11.40 Brookside (68447403). 12.10 Animal Rescue (22527855). 12.40 Rescue 911 (96787294). 1.10 Special Bables (58099841), **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (66488107), **2.10** LA Law (9576381). **3.10** Living Room (2669923). 4.00 Michael Cole (8670381), 4.50 Rolonda (9285233). 5.40 Ready, Steady,

> 11.00 Sex Zone (7972720), 12.00 Close 9.00 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948) (89344359). 11.30 White Heat (1949) (44509738). 1.45 Zabriskie Point (1970) (89504169). 3.45 Med Love (1935) (77685169), **5.00** Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL 7.00 Jenny (6300), 7.30 Grace under Fire (6039), 8.00 Ellen (2720), 8.30 Newsradio (1855). 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (12958). 9.30 Whose Line is it Anyway? (47749), 10.00 Frasier (46818), 10.30 Cheers (19478), 11.00 Seinfeld (17403), 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (89213). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (18695). **1.00** Text (93879). **1.30** The Critic (10898), 2.00 Dr Katz (26256), 2.30 Tibs and Flos (38091). 3.00 Nightstand (76053). 3.30-4.00 Abbott & Costato (29343).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

and Away (25824749), 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5892010), 3.20 Anglia News and Weather (8850395), 6.00 An-3BC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 6.30 15 BBCT London except 6.30 lewsline 6.30 (861), 10.15 Lost to Dance 963823], 10.55 Inside Story (839869), 11.50 Black and White (666652), 12.25 Jkling (6001492), 12.55 Film: A Woman Jeomed (2743546), 2.25 Joins BBC lews 24 (52068140). News and Weather (8650395). 6.00 Angle News (#19). 6.30 Whipsmade (229), 10.30 Angle News and Weather (858355). 11.40 Crime Night (5897%). 11.55 The Ticket (347010). 12.30 Tales From the Darkside (5012508). 12.40 Tales From the Darkside (5012508). 12.40 (80346343). 3.30 Trisha (46256). 4.30 The Making of Dances with Wolves (94487017). 4.55 Nightscreen (88965275). 5.00 Coronation Street (50633). BC1 SCOTLAND

CENTRAL CENTRAL
As Cariton except: 12.20 Central
News and Weather (8556039). 1.00 Echo
Point (13774). 3.20 Central News
(8650395). 5.40 Shortland Street
(9247039). 6.00 Home and Away (904129).
6.25 Central News and Weather (800132).
10.30 Central News and Weather
(95855). 11.40 Doomsday: What Can We
Do? (826584). 4.25 Jobfinder (2327965).
5.20 Asian Eva (4468140).

5.20 Asian Éva (7458140).

HTY WALES As Carfton excepts 10.30 This Moming (1588478). 12.15 HTV News (7:57/07). 1.00 Shortland Street (13774). 1.30 Home and Away (35381). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5882010). 3.20 HTV News (8550395). **5.10** A Country Practice (9247039). **6.00** Home and Away (804126). **6.25** Wales Torright (830132). **10.30** HTV News (958856). 11.40 Renegace (887923), 12.40 Film: Cop (909966), 3.05 Judge Judy (90346343), 3.30 Trisha (46258), 4.30 The Making of Dances with Wolves (94497017). 4.55 Nightscreen (88995275). 5.00 Coronation St (50633). HTV WEST As HTV Wales except: 1.00 Next

Stop... (1974). 6.25 HTV West Weather (232590). 6.30 The West Toright (229). 11.40 Anatomy of Disaster (887923). MERIDIAN

MERIDIAN
As Cartion except: 10.30 This Morning (158476). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (7157107). 1.00 Shortland Street (9977942). 1.35 Home and Away (2582649). 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (5892010). 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (8690395). 5.10 Home and Away (9247039). 5.37 Three Minutes (889300). 6.00 Meridian Tonight (749). 6.30 Birdwatch with Chris Packham (229). 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (958855). 11.40 Anatomy of Disaster (887923). 12.40 Firm: Cop (909966). 3.05 Judge Judy (80346343). 3.30 Trisha (46256).

4.30 The Making of Dances with Wolves (94497017). **4.55** (TV Nightscreen (88995275). **5.00** Freescreen (50633). WESTCOUNTRY

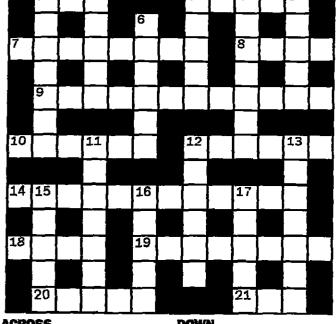
WESTCOUNTRY
As Carriton except: 10.30 This
Morning (11588478), 12.15 Westcountry
News (7157107), 12.27 liturinations
(8637958), 1.00 Emmerdale (13774), 3.20
Westcountry News (8650395), 6.00
Westcountry Live (24229), 10.30 Westcountry News (958855), 11.40 Greatest
Goals (887923), 12.40 Firm: Cop
(909966), 3.05, Judge Judy (80346343),
3.30 Trishs (46256), 4.30 The Making of
Dances with Wolves (94497077), 4.55
ITV Nightscreen (88996275), 5.00 Coronation Street (50633). YORKSHIRE

YORKSHERE
As Cariton except: 12.20 Calendar
News (856039), 1.00 Home and Away
(9583331), 1.25 The Jerry Springer
Show (4004294), 2.30 Emmerdals
(7613584), 3.20 Calendar News Headines (8650395), 5.40 News; Weather
(912958), 5.55 Calendar (492381), 6.30
Tonight (229), 10.30 Calendar News
and Weather (958855), 11.40 Roar
626584, 4.25, Johnnider (348941). and Weather (958855). TL-90 (526584). 4.25 Jobfinder (34894ff).

East News and Weather (8638687). 12.25 Joblink (8637958), 3.20 North East News Headlines (8650395), 5.55 North East Weather (526836), 6.00 North East Tonight (24229). 10.30 North East News and Weather (958855). 11.40 Around the House (279590). 12.30 Short Story Cinema (2473459).

As Channel 4 except: 9.00 Ysgo-lion/Schools (20830652), 12.00 Home improvement (29547126), 12.30 Sesame Street (38185213). 1.00 Planed Plant (34221519), 1.30 Roots to Success (34267584). 1.45 Film: Apartment for Peggy (37788213), 4.30 Dishes (81161316), 5.00 Planed Plant (64579107). (81161376), 5.00 Planed Plant (84578107), 5.30 Countdown (81089768), 6.00 Newyddion (54457590), 6.10 Heno (16267497), 7.00 Pobel y Cwm (64582671), 7.30 Newyddion (81162045), 8.00 Placio (6457126), 10.00 Brockside (60289836), 10.35 Sex and the City (56769774), 11.05 Iove.cu.k (67500958), 11.35 Merk Thomas Corpedy Product 11.35 Mark Thomas Comedy Product (63612229), 12.05 The Spying Game (19570527), 12.35 Football Italia

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Hostelry (3) Central European (5) Mad rush (8)

Nil (4) 9 Part of Bible (3,9) 10 Impassive (6) 12 Accident (6) 14 Stamina (7.5)

18 Relative (4) 19 Punishment imposed by court

20 Each (5) 21 Equipment (3)

DOWN Entrance hymn (7)

Wanderer (5) Heraldic device (5) Catalytic protein substances Great Lake (5) Protect (6) 11 Set of baby clothes (7) 12 Acting listlessly (6) 13 Fruit (7)

15 Brownish-grey (5)

16 Unpleasant (5)

17 Ruin (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Herod, 4 Rome (Aerodrome), 5 Anxious, 9 Prune, 10 Sign, 1 Incident, 12 Consideration, 15 Cavalier, 17 Acid, 20 Using, 21 Tribute, 22 Veal, 23 Dense, DOWN: 1 Hexagon, 2 Riot, 3 Disinterested, 4 Replica, 5 Manve, 6 Bass, 7 Bealen, 12 Cactus, 13 Illegal, 14 Include, 16 Voice, 18 Deed, 19 Lion.



ROBERT HANKS TELEVISION REVIEW

integrammes that make you stop and count your blessings, hat give you a pang of fear when you realise how terrible life can be. Children of the Sewers (ITV) ought to have been one of these. This was Desmond Wilcox's follow-up to his 1991 film about the towneless children of Bogota, who hid in the sewers to avoid the police hit squads who considered them fair game. But while the details of life and death on the streets were grim, and Jaime Jaramillo's achievement in creating refuges for the children was impressive, the plodding, repetitive commentary and the aggressively pletistic tone roused in me a powerful sense of indifference.

nuinely scary, perhaps cause it was so much closer home. The first of four films modern working practices lowed three narratives, sely linked by the notion of rigets", and the pressure to set them. In fact, the real spect seemed to be the way it contemporary commerce vates greed, aggression and pidity into virtuos. Vorkers at War (BBC1), he other hand, was ne product of their labours, nd some support for that lew came from the workers I the knicker factory we aw being nagged into doing sertime they didn't want I do. But what was chilling are was the way people are was the way people are was the way people are got to believing that telephone les and Ann Summers wites are a worthwhile by of spending your life.

Vicious Circle (BBC1) as a drama about the piots of Martin Cahill, a Dublin gangster known as

The thesis was stated at the ginning by Adrian Webster, to trains the sales team at the orth Amber Computer Sales: That we're looking to recruit quite simply, people who are ungry, bubbly little bastards." In had been one of these, it had lost motivation Dublin gangster known as access ated not only the police fatally, the IRA. Once or so the film trod too heavily, me point, we saw Cahill saxed by the beauty of a a portrait. Observe the atox, the moment seemed ay a man who can nail enemies to warehouse rs, yet is sensitive enough pyreciate great art. an old paradox though concentration camp guards sall one; what is really filing is that a man who nail people to floors can in the capacity for ordinary non warmth and humou:

I could have done without scene where the policeman in outer his estranged wife, interpointing his emotional pilness with the double urity and happiness of the households Cahill enjoyed. But, by and large, Kleran andville's script showed a rmendable reluctance to wroorats, Instead, the wer was treated to the sheer ity of Ken Stott as Cahill, a arming, impassive gnome in ill-fitting, off-white anorak, paunch buiging through a leck sweater. And up against

fier the birth of his son, lees. Webster pulled him iters. Webster pulled him iters webster pulled him iters. Webster pulled him or questioning, demanding o know "Where are you on our belief spiral?" and elling him to "Think about our tally want with it." It example the exactly that, and had soncluded that what he really vanted for his life was to pend it looking after a four-veek-old baby instead of with seople who think that "Where ure you on your belief spiral?" as a meaningful question. But historial really hit him, and he consented to go back to he reprogrammed". "Stop bloody hinking," Webster instructed him, "thinking is dangerous," is part of his campaign to lamp out this risky habit, 'Pebster got his staff to dress yo as giant pink risky habit, 'Pebster got his staff to dress plangarous and fight each other.

Elsewhere, Sharon, a sales

10 Regional News (1) (861).

7,00 Airport. Aerofiots Jeremy Spake contends with a broken airbridge and a lost passenger in the re-heated docu-soap (H) (S) (T) (7478).

7.30 Dream House. To describe Carol Vorderman as "ubiquitous" dossn't convey just how often she's on television riowadays. This programms is about design a house for the 21st century (S) (T) (385). 8.00 Ch hanging Rooms. Interior design show, which this sak comes from East Dulwich (S) (T) (6126).

8.30 Satteraen Doge" Home. A visit from an elderly man In search of some canine company (5) (T) (206300).

9.30 The X-Files. Fans of cult, sci-fi conspiracy dramas will love this cult, sci-fi conspiracy drama, as the old line goes (5) (7) (803855). News; Regional News; Weather (1) (1229).

Inside Story. A moving dissection of modern relationships, featuring couples whose relationships ran aground in unusual ways. It includes a husband who left his wife for another man and another who went off with the babysitter (S) (T) (864132).

11.05 EIIDE Black and White. The first in a new series exploring racial stitudes in which two reporters – one white, one black – record their experiences in Leeds. See Investigation of the Day, below (5) (1) (706584).

IZ.10 IIIM A Woman Scorned (Dick Lowry 1991 US).
TV movie about a homicidal San Diego housewife,
starring Meredith Baxter (S) (T) (828091). **1.45 Joins BBC News 24** (70359782). To 6am

INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

BLACK AND WHITE (105pm BBC1, right) Leeds is the venue for a social experiment (first carried out in Bristol 10 years ago) which follows two "ordinary" men – one white, one black – as they test the racial tolerance of late 1990s Britain, mainly through the device of attempting to book rooms in B&Bs. An absorbing sub-plot saves an otherwise dull film us the two unthropologists full out when one mocks, the Junnican accent of two aggressive kids in the city's Chapeltown district. Ironic really, documentary makers spend so much time hat-housing condict that when it happens in front of them – and doesn't quite fit their agenda – they don't know what to do with it.

THE BIG MATCH: ENGLAND VS FRANCINGH) A Hoddle-free England welcome the We holders to Wembley. For England, the main the from the gifted Nicolas Anelka, given the way sometime England centre-half Rio Ferdinand last Saturday. That the England defence will be his Arsenal collengues – Scaman, Adums, Keomakes his task more difficult. The appearance Zinedine Zidane is a treat, and the Arsenal covered that the for Paul Inc., the form

NCE (10.40pm ITV, world Cup in threat will come in the picked off and at West Hum ill be packed with

MATCH OF THE DAY

BBC1

DO Business Breakfast (72590). 7.00 News (T) (25519). 9.00 Kilroy (S) (T) (8187045). 9.45 The Variessa Show (S) (T) (4413720). 10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (6585564). 11.00 Real Rooms (S) (5688861). 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (S) (T) (8565720). 11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1755107). 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (96888). 12.30 Wipsout (S) (286888). 12.55 The Weather Show (S) (T) (48211871). 1.00 News; Weather (T) (22478). 1.30 Regional News and Weather (47840038). 1.40 Neighbours (S) (T) (25828294). 2.05 Snooker (S) (3976855). 2.55 Body Spies (S) (5383045).

Children's BBC: Playdays (R) (8) (8216774), 3.45 Little Monsters (S) (2013478), 3.50 ChuckleVision (S) (T) (5918580), 4.10 See It Saw It (S) (T) (3355584), 4.35 The Wild House (S) (T) (5916039), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (2455107), 5.10 Blue Peter (S) (T) (6007749).

Neighbours. Bouncer moves into his new place, but his flat-warming party gets out of hand (S) (T) (108836)

Weather (T) (381).

100

Bicod on the Carpet. "Guns 'n' Posles". Another episode in the boardroom-battle series, which this week focuses on the power squabbles at Interflora (S) (T) (608403).

10.30 Newsnight. With Gripper Paxman (T) (659942)

BBC2

- It's Our World... and I'm Worried (S) (8880278), 9:10
What? Where? When? Why? (S) (8085823), 9:25 The Art
(S) (4859652), 9:45 Words and Pictures (S) (1029229),
10.00 Telefubbles (F) (S) (89229), 10:30 Numbertime (S)
(2946923), 10:45 Cats Eyes (S) (294478), 11:00 Around
Scotland (S) (3033479), 11:20 The Geography Programme
(S) (T) (8235655), 11:40 Science in Action (S) (T)
(8643039), 12:00 Spanish Misupazine (S) (9785316), 12:15
Hallo aus Berlin (S) (7153361), 12:30 Working Lunch
(49584), 1:00 Brum (F) (S) (943977861), 1:10 The Travel
Hour (F) (S) (985823), 2:10 Widiffe on Two (F) (S) (T)
(61177132), 2:40 News; Local News; Weather (T) (3369010),
2:45 Westhinister (S) (T) (2270836), 3:56 News; Local
News; Weather (T) (6214758), 4:00 Snooker (S) (8829403),

5.10 International Crioket. Highlights of the first match in the final of the one-day tournament involving Australia England and Sri Lanka (S) (85/1855).
6.00 Star. Trekt The Next Generation: It's the intergalactic equivalent of Groundhog Day on the USS Enterprise (R) (S) (T) (940859).

Tales from the Riverbank. Geoffrey Palmer and angling – not the most exolling combination, admittedly but perhaps this look at the eel will win viewers over (R) (S) (T) (887).

Battle of the Sexes. Samuel West narrates the story of sex in the animal kingdom (S) (T) (4768).

8.30 Home Front. A couple put their hallway to good use, while some fellow by the name of Peter Plaskitt has a go at transforming a child's playroom (S) (T) (9403).

8.00 Mersey Biues. Last in the documentary series about life in the Merseyelde police force. Detactive Chief inspector Elmore Davies is in court on a charge of corruption, with one of the Gladiators in the dock corruption, with one of the Gia alongside him (S) (T) (785381).

6.45 Smooker. David Vine introduces turther action from the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre (S) (284855).

0.00 News; Weather (1) (19855)

0.40 BICER The Big Match: England vs France. Highlights of Englands (riendly egainst the World Cup winners, See Match of the Day, below (847580). capital and the South-East (T) (958855).

INITIONAL Cop (James B Harris 1988 US). Thriller about a detective whose determination to solve a murder case destroys his personal life. Starring James Woods. See Film of the Day, below (T) (278237). Midnight Caller (626584).

Master Class (1464256). 3.05 Judge Judy (Fl) (55587072). 3.25 Trisha (Fl) (S) (T) (9386527). 4.25 ITV Nightscreen (3489411). 5.30 ITN Morning News (88275). To 6am.

6.00 London Tonight. Regional news update to capital and the South-East, including a local bulletin (T) (749).

London Bridge (S) (229).

7.00 Emmerdale. Zoe attempts to broker with Jack (S) (T) (87%).

7.30 Coronation Street. It's the dawn of a new era at the corner shop (S) (T) (213).

10.00 Sex and the City. Thus far disappointing sitcom about a thirtysomething hack typing platitudes about sex and the single women in New York (S) (T) (17497).

love.co.uk The various technologies employed by millennial folk to send out messages of fova (S) (T) (89045).

11.30 11.00 Mark Thomas Comedy Product. The opinionated comedian forms his own action group, the Poople's Nuclear Miltia, to protect clitzens from the dangers of nuclear waste (1) (6584).

4.06 TAILLI Madonna of the Seven Moons (Arthur Crabtree 1946 UK). Phyllis Calvert romance (550362). 5.55 Sesame Street (3622343). To 7am.

FILM OF THE DAY

5,40 N 5:10 Home and Away (T) (9247039). Weather (T) (562497).

) as a hook the 8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Two skyclivers, plus guests, get married in mid-air – a little cruel on the bridssmalds, perhaps, but terrifically amusing for everyone size (1) (1671). **8.00 Breakside.** Scouse lolk. Fon Dixon's been up to no good (S) (T) (9836). 7.55 The Millennial Miniatures. Another new work from an eager film-maker (1) (205297).

9.00 ER. This week on ER... Benton's son has severe hearing loss – old frozen face is in denial, wouldn't you know if (S) (T) (9923).

10.30

So Graham Norton (R) (283346), **12.40** Board Stupid Goes Sking (R) (2464701), **12.45** Football Italia – Mezzanotte (13950169), **3.40** Transworld Sport (6019169).

ITV Carlton

Channel

hannel

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 10 February 1999

OO GMTV (9664346), 9.25 Trisha (S) (T) (5474671), 10.30 This Morning (T) (56106836), 12.20 Your Shout (8556039), 12.30 News; Weather (T) (36010), 1.00 London Today (T) (13774), 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (S) (T) (1643300), 2.15 Home and Away (S) (T) (310565), 2.45 Date's Supermarket Sweep (S) (T) (319836), 3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (5400872), 3.20 London Today (T) (8660396).

Sesame Street (92300), 7.00 The Big Breakfast (18229). 9.00 Channel 4 Schools (T) (425215), 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8132). 12.00 Sesame Street (19768), 12.30 Bewitched (R) (T) (34652), 1.00 Pet Rescue (R) (T) (11316). 1.30 Earthscape (90573671).

Children's ITV: Mopatop's Shop (7258188), 3.35 Teddybears (3264229), 3.45 Jumanji (R) (S) (T) (6025300), 4.10 Whizziwig (T) (6207478), 4.40 Mad for it (2238942).

1.36 IIIII Uncle Silas (Charles Frank 1947 UK).
Atmospheric thriller starring Jean Simmons as a teenage girl who goes to live with her creepy uncle (Derrick de Marney) who, years before, was acquitted on a murder charge (T) (38339519).

5.30 Pet Rescue. The staff of RSPCA Chesterfield encounter a group of bolsterous goats (8) (T) (478). 3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (107), 4.00 Fiftsen to One (S) (T) (942), 4.30 Countdown (S) (T) (5909478), 4.55 Rick! Lake (S) (T) (3556381).

6.00 Late Sue Pt

5.20

Sunset Beach. A car crash leaves Sean, Emily and Brad unconscious ~ not that you'd notice (S) (T) (8841395).

Late Lunch with Mel and Sue. Mel Gledroyc and Sue Perkins with ironic-celebrity chat, audience participation and cookery. Stoke City fan Nick Hancook is a guest, as is Pory McGrath, his bearded colleague on They Think It's All Over, Julie Hesmonchalgh (Hayley in Corrie) and Gary Lineker also pop in (42671).

6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (8) (6325497).

Family Affairs. (6316749).

Josh receives a warning (S) (1)

7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather, including headlines at 7.30pm (S) (T) (238045).

7.00 5 News, Including First on Five. National and International news with Kirsty Young (S) (T) (5179768).

7.30 Malaysian Jungle. Examining the impact of climatic change on rabitorest flora and fauna, which are accustomed to humid conditions (5) (1) (8401861).

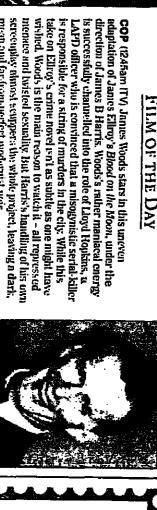
8.00 into the Flames. The fire-fighting series focuses on modern cities, where high-rise buildings present awkward problems for fremen (S) (T) (1323590).

9.00 Tellin Little Nikita (Richard Benjamin 1988 US). Top-noich espionage drama in which an American teenager, who is about to join the Air Force academy discovers that his parents are Soviet agents who emigrated to the USA 20 years previously. River Phosand Sidney Politier star (S) (T) (98705887).

10.50 Melinda's Big Night in. Melinda Messenger with chat and nonsense. Guests include the cost of Boyz

11.30 Strange Luck (S) (904/1768), 12.25 Ice Hockey:
Buffalo Sabres vs Ottowa Senators (S) (27753140). 4.40
The Movie Chart Show (R) (S) (65026411), 5.05 Move
On Up (R) (S) (46869633). 5.30 100 Per Cent (R) (S)
(9960508). To 6am.

THE PUSION GUIDS BY PATER CONCINE



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OO 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (6505478), 7.00
WideWorld (R) (S) (T) (6043519), 7.30 Milkehakel (S)
(3197313), 7.35 Wimzle's House (R) (3298045), 8.00
Havakazoo (R) (S) (4071518), 8.30 Dappiedown Farm
(R) (S) (4063590), 9.00 Ho! Property (R) (S) (T)
(1690126), 9.25 Aussell Grant's Postcards (7325487),
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (R) (6061381), 10.20
Sunset Beach (S) (T) (1141774), 11.40 Lesza (S)
(4487497), 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (4878478),
12.30 Family Affairs (R) (S) (T) (9913652), 1.30 The
Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (8035590), 1.30 The
Bold and the Beautiful (S) (T) (8035590), 1.30 The
Gold (S) (5168652), 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (1884132), Pleasent-enough, made-for-television romanito comedy starring Requel Welch as the widow of a diplomat who finds herself merconed on a tropical island with a salty sea-dog type while en route to a new life in America (9705294).

3.30 EIIII Troubi